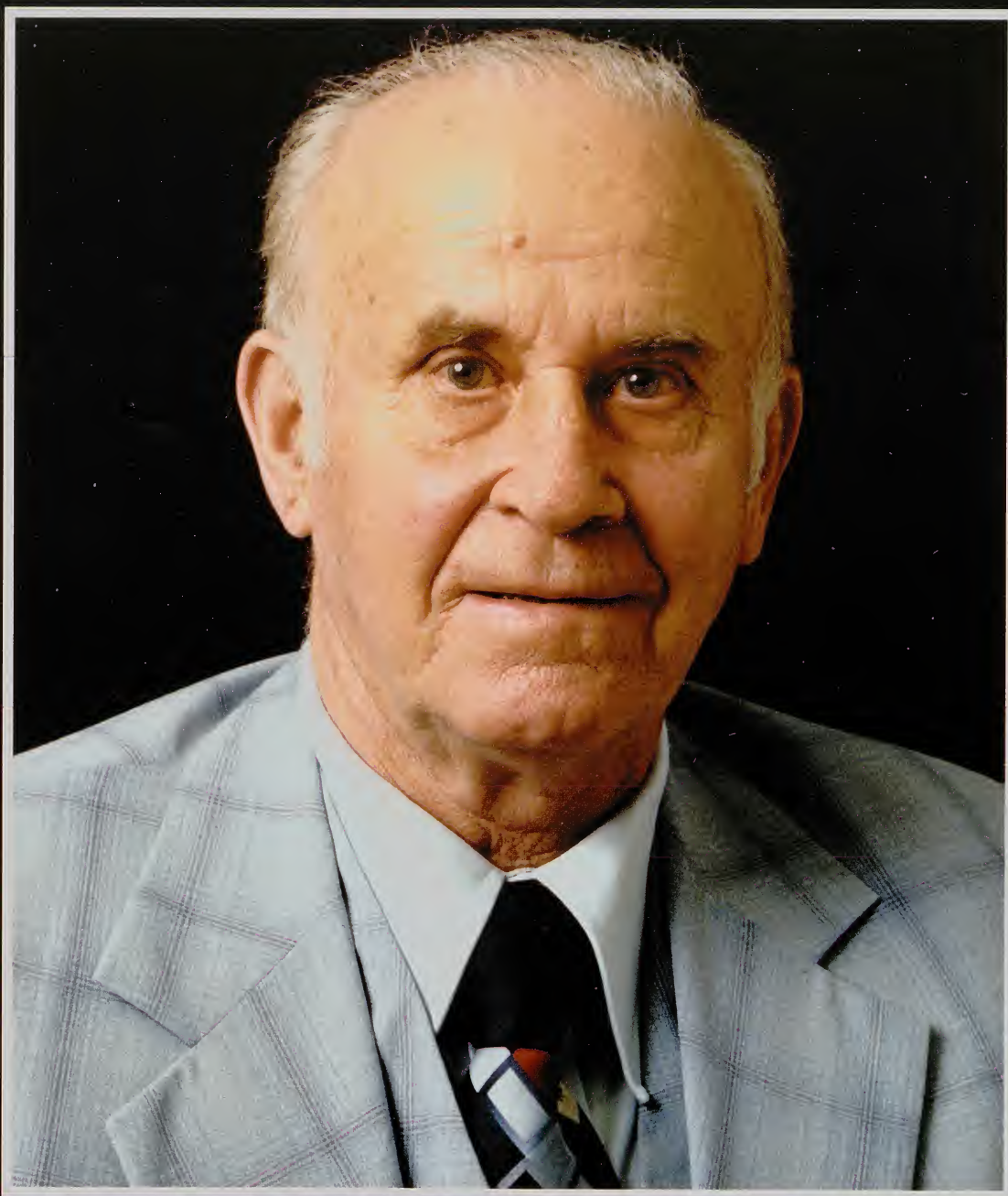


# The Apache

SPRING 2000

TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE



Floyd Solomon Wagstaff  
1911–2000

Apache Ladies Claim National  
Basketball Championship,  
see page 32!!



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# The Apache

Spring 2000  
Vol. 16, No. 2

## FEATURES

### 3 Interview with the President

Dr. William R. Crowe talks about his relationship with the late Floyd Wagstaff and the legacy he leaves behind.

*Interview by Rick Diamond*



### 6 His Legend Lives On ...

Coach Wagstaff brought more than athletic fame to Tyler Junior College. To many he symbolized the institution. When he left us this February, a piece of TJC passed on.

*by Phil Hicks*

### 10 He Was Like a Father ...

Former players and colleagues recall "Coach Wag" and the impact he made on their lives.

*by Shelly Roark*

### 16 TJC's Retired Trustees

Over its history, TJC has had the good fortune of years of dedication from many dedicated trustees. Recently we spoke with the College's five retired trustees who served a combined 125 years for TJC.

*by Rick Diamond*

### 20 A Sense for the Game

TJC Freshman baseball player Zachery Reagan is an excellent player and a team standout—and he's deaf. Meet this outstanding young athlete.

*by Shelly Roark*



### 22 The Legal Eagle

TJC Legal Instructor Margaret Hussey is a lawyer, student advisor, and a great teacher. Get to know this remarkable educator in this issue's Faculty Profile.

*by Nita Wilson*

## DEPARTMENTS

2 Editors' Note

33 On Campus

27 Development

36 Alumni

30 Arts

44 Back Page

32 Sports

### 24 RTDC: A Success Story

Ten years ago, TJC established a new kind of education facility, the Regional Training and Development Complex. Take a look at the story of an innovative campus and program that has served hundreds of groups and thousands of people.

*by Fred Peters*



# EDITORS' NOTE . . .

## In this issue ...

Welcome to our spring edition of *The Apache*.

This issue is dedicated to the memory of legendary Coach Floyd Wagstaff, mentor, coach, athletic director and friend to athletics throughout the country.

President Dr. William R. Crowe recalls the impact Wag had on him and the personal experiences they shared during the 6 years Wag served as Crowe's special advisor. Phil Hicks, long-time sports writer for the *Tyler Morning Telegraph* and follower of TJC athletics, writes about the name recognition Wagstaff gave TJC and how his years of coaching and cultivating set the stage for excellence in sport and in the lives of TJC athletes. Finally, staff writer Shelly Roark shares the memories of some former players and colleagues.

There are other legacies described in this issue. Rick Diamond summarizes the accomplishments and contributions of five former trustees who have retired from service to the Board within the past 10 years. It's a heartwarming visit to the TJC they came to love and to help advance.

We think you'll also enjoy profiles of two remarkable people. Margaret Hussey is our Faculty Profile for the issue. The retiring instructor of the legal assistant program will be missed, by students and fellow faculty members. (We hear that she may continue to assist TJC even in retirement, as so many do, in a part-time capacity.) Another person we will introduce to you is a hearing-impaired baseball player named Zachery Reagan. He's an excellent infielder and a hometown boy who has never let his impairment stop him from excelling in sports.

We also highlight the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the TJC Regional Training and Development Complex, an innovative facility that has brought education, government and business together to improve the lives of so many in so many different ways.

We hope you enjoy the issue. As always, we have the latest news from on campus, development, athletics, the arts, and alumni. Class Notes will bring you up to date on your former classmates. Maybe your recent accomplishments or announcements are listed?

We wish you a great end to this spring and we look forward to bringing you a summer issue very soon.

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E-mail: [Apache@tjc.tyler.cc.tx.us](mailto:Apache@tjc.tyler.cc.tx.us)  
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# from the office of the PRESIDENT



## COACH WAGSTAFF

Bill Crowe fondly  
looks back at the  
legacy of Coach  
Floyd Wagstaff.

*Interview  
by Rick Diamond*

**Apache:** Tell us about your impressions of Coach Floyd Wagstaff.

**Dr. Crowe:** He was a character. One of his good friends was Mr. Brookshire.

**Apache:** The Mr. Brookshire?

**Dr. Crowe:** Yes, the man who started the whole business. He had a gift—he could relate to everybody. The common person, the important person, the wealthy person—he was just one of those guys who got along with everyone. People knew that he liked them and cared about them, and his warmth radiated to everyone he worked with. You felt like you were one of his best friends.

**Apache:** What kind of role did he play here at the College in these last few years, after he wasn't head coach anymore?

**Dr. Crowe:** Well, he was active as athletic director for a long time, before my time as president. He had a hand in hiring coaches, promoting the programs, keeping his work going. He was very much a part of continuing to shape the excellent athletics that he had founded here.

For me, until the day he died, he was special advisor to the president of the College, and he was a great resource. I didn't get to spend as much time with him as I'd like to have, but every time I would go speak at a banquet, at Rotary, and so forth, I'd call him and always take him with me. I mean, he was TJC's athletic program. You took him with you and everybody knew him or knew of him, and I'd introduce him and he'd start talking, and an hour would go by—

**Apache:** And you were a hit!

**Dr. Crowe:** Exactly! By the time you ate and then heard Wag's stories, that was it. He was just a great man to be around, and what he embodied about TJC was so important. And so there was a great role that he played as an ambassador for the College all the way along.

But, you know, he cared very deeply about this institution. So many people in community colleges—not so much here at TJC, although I suppose there is some of that here as well to a small degree—feel somewhat embarrassed or at least





less than thrilled to say that they work for or represent a junior college, especially when in the context of big university athletics or competition. But not Wag. Some people say, 'Well, you know, that scholar or that athlete won't come here to a junior college.' But Wag, you know, would go out and recruit the very best athletes that were available, proudly, and if people balked at whether he should approach the top notch high school athletes, he couldn't understand it.

He told the story not long ago that he actually went to recruit Lew Alcindor when he was in high school all those years ago, in New York. Of course he ended up going to UCLA and doing okay—but Coach Wagstaff didn't think that he had to take a back seat to anybody. That was Wag's attitude. He was very proud of this place and promoted it all he could.

**Apache:** So many people talk about how TJC surprises them because it's not at all the stereotypical "two-year school"—people are amazed when they walk on the campus. As we've talked about so often, TJC has something about it that sets it apart. And people like Coach Wagstaff obviously played such an important role in that development precisely because of

that attitude of his, that TJC should be a top-flight institution.

**Dr. Crowe:** Wagstaff said to me several times—we'd be in my office talking, and he'd say that he was glad we had built the White Administration Building because it was a beautiful building and one that speaks of the excellence of TJC, what he'd been telling people for years that TJC really was all along. And he, of course, was saying that back when there really wasn't much here at all to look at way back when, and yet even then he believed in TJC. And TJC is a far richer place because of his contributions to it.

It's a real tribute to him and to others who had that early vision, who said, 'What can this institution be?' They didn't limit it by saying that this is a junior college. They didn't even think of TJC in those terms.

We aren't embarrassed to recruit the best athletes in our area, any more than we're embarrassed to recruit the best scholars out of every high school. We tell them all, 'Hey, this is a school you will be very challenged by and where you will meet with the best education available. You really will be prepared for where you go from here.'

**Apache:** One of the things that you think of that distinguishes TJC besides its excellent academic programs is its excellent athletic programs—the nationally and even internationally ranked programs that set us apart. And Coach Wagstaff obviously just wanted to create here all along.

**Dr. Crowe:** Yes. Coach Wag wanted to create the best collegiate athletic program in the country. And not just among junior colleges; he wanted to have the best, period.

And I think that's a great testimony to the rest of us—you know, we limit ourselves in so many ways. But you really become as big as your dreams, and Coach Wag had very big dreams that he acted on and made reality, not just for himself but for lots of people.

I was in Lufkin yesterday and met with Jack Sweeney, who is an executive vice president with Temple Inland, and who played basketball for Coach Wag, and there's David Lunceford, and Jimmy Murphy, and Mack Pogue—there are so many people who came from all over, many of them from humble beginnings and small towns. And their accomplishments, what they've gone on to do with their lives,



what kind of citizens they are, what kind of parents they are, what kind of contributions they've made to their communities and to this country—you know, that's what shows what kind of impact Coach Wag had on his players.

And that goes on forever. That's intergenerational. For all of us in education, it's like that. And Wag was one of those, like all the excellent teachers we have and have had over the decades – these are people who dedicate their lives to touching the lives of their students and to making a meaningful difference.

There are so many people who came to TJC specifically because of Coach Wag, it's impossible to count them—and to count all the people who came who weren't even primarily on athletic scholarships. Think of the gigantic effect that TJC athletics has had on the school overall, on its image, on the students who never had anything to do with athletics except that the great school spirit and atmosphere here brought them to TJC and made them bring their friends, too.

Coach Wag is the whole reason [local sports journalist, broadcaster and TJC Honored Alumnus] David Smoak came here. He had a friend who was coming up to visit TJC, and Smoak wanted to get out of class for a day. So they drove up together from San Antonio with David tagging along. And while his friend was in another building looking at some other program, David wandered into the gym, and Coach Wag was in there, and they got to talking. And David decided that this was where he

wanted to come to school! And his friend didn't end up coming here, but David did!

That's just the kind of effect Wagstaff had on people.

**“Coach Wag  
wanted to create  
the best college  
athletic program  
in the country.  
And not just among  
junior colleges;  
he wanted to have  
the best, period.”  
—Dr. Bill Crowe**

Ask the players—the stories they tell about him and the lengths he went to to recruit them, to get them in shape athletically as well as intellectually—he made a huge impact on people. And he was a really hard coach. He drove his players hard and they performed. But throughout, his deep, deep humanity endeared him to

everyone.

If you've been to one of our athletic honor banquets you know how, when we honored a great athlete from TJC's past, of course Wag would tell a story. And most of the players told stories on him, too! His memory was amazing—he could take you right back to a day in 1957, driving down some little road, talking to a basketball player he wanted to come to TJC. And whenever he'd talk about a particular player, he'd talk about how badly they played when they first came, or how they didn't know anything about offense or defense, and he'd be smiling the whole time because this would be a player who had gone on to greatness. He lived for TJC and for the many, many people he reached out to, and guided, and cared for.

**Apache:** Any final thoughts about what his lasting legacy will be?

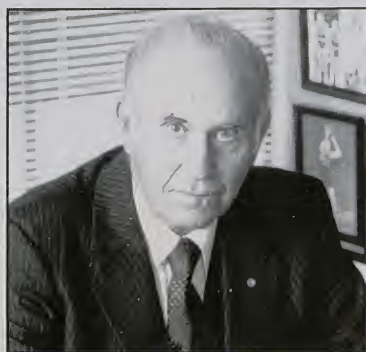
**Dr. Crowe:** Certainly his legacy is the towering athletic program he built. And he was a great man personally; he's got three great kids, and a wonderful family who are making their contribution to their communities. I think that's what people remember—he was a person who first and foremost cared about people, about students, athletes, friends.

And our challenge is not to let Wagstaff Gym become just a building, but to make sure that people know who Floyd Wagstaff was and what kind of contribution he made to TJC, to the hundreds and hundreds of people whose lives he touched, and to all of East Texas and beyond. 🏠



# Wagstaff

COACH



his legend

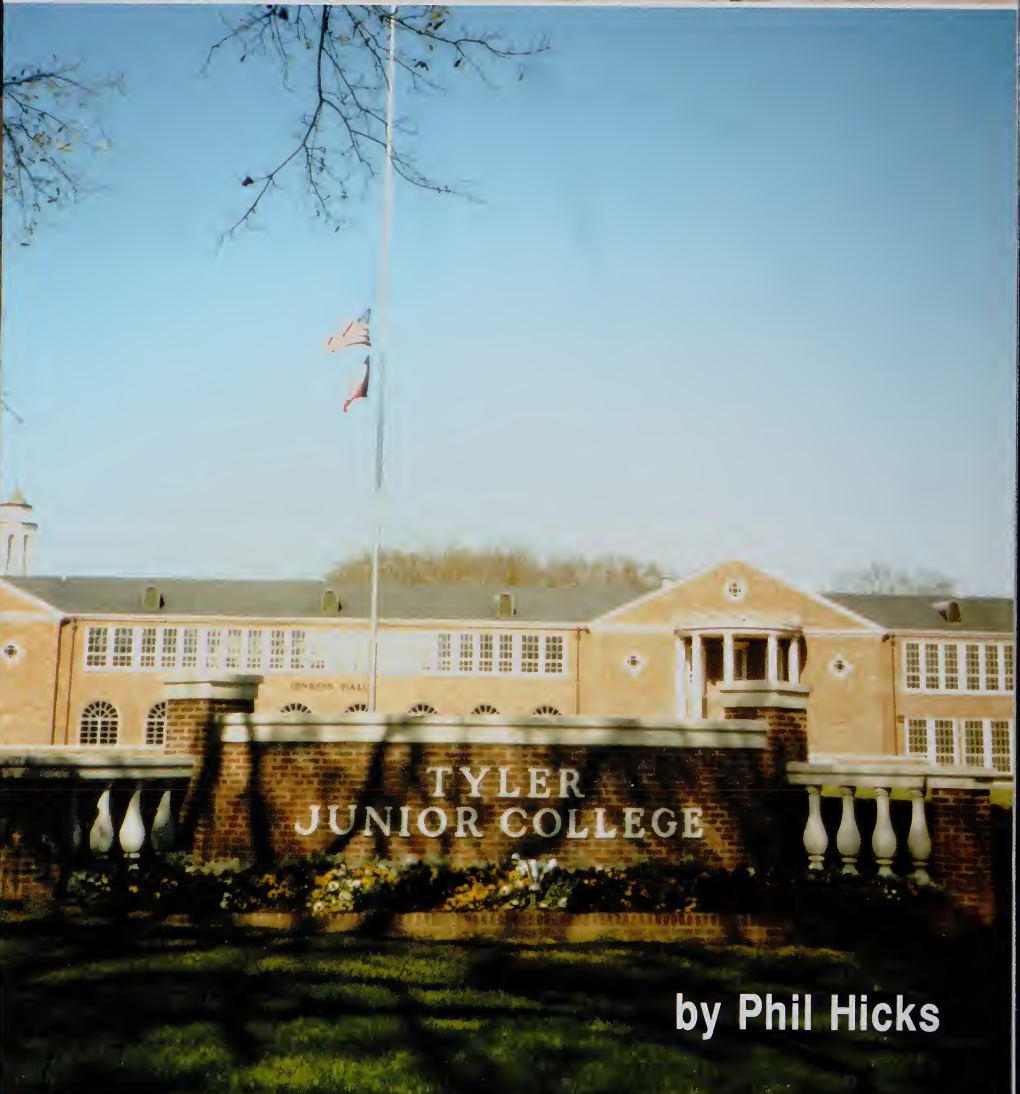
Floyd Wagstaff:  
The legendary coach  
whose name is synonymous  
with Tyler Junior College.

no silent



*Apache players join fans in observing a moment of silence after learning that Coach Wagstaff had passed away just hours before TJC's game against Jacksonville College, February 5.*





by Phil Hicks



# Wagstaff

COACH



In the athletic world, many times a person is associated with an institution or team.

Mention Paul "Bear" Bryant and the University of Alabama comes to mind.

Talk about Joe Paterno and one's thoughts turn to Penn State.

How about Tom Landry? The Dallas Cowboys, of course.

The same can be said about Floyd Solomon Wagstaff.

When one thinks of Coach Wagstaff, thoughts of Tyler Junior College come to mind or when thinking about TJC, Coach Wagstaff is thought of.

The legendary coach, whose name is synonymous with Tyler Junior College and the city of Tyler, died Feb. 5 in Tyler. He was 89.

Affectionately known as Coach Wag by his players and friends, Mr. Wagstaff coached at TJC from 1946-75 where he built both the basketball and football programs into national powers. He continued as athletic director until retiring in 1984. He remained an adviser to the school's president after retirement.

He won two National Junior College Athletic Association basketball championships (1949 and 1951) and finished as runner-up in 1960 and 1961. He led the Apaches to the NJCAA national tournament 11 times, more than any other junior college coach.

Coach Wagstaff is a member of the Texas Sports Hall of Fame in Waco, the National Junior College Athletic Association Hall of Fame in Hutchinson, Kan., and the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass., the Stephen F. Austin State University Hall of Fame and the TJC Sports Circle of Honor.

Coach Wagstaff won 10 conference titles and tied for four others. He compiled a record of 743-221 in his 30 years of coaching basketball. At one time, he was the winningest coach in junior college basketball. He still ranks second in wins.

"All of us at Tyler Junior College are devastated by the passing of Coach Floyd Wagstaff," TJC president Dr. William

R. Crowe said. "Coach Wagstaff was a great part of this institution. Coach Wagstaff was a great friend to Tyler Junior College and the City of Tyler. It is a sad day for us. There are people you can't replace. Coach Wagstaff was one of a kind. It's a tremendous loss for those fortunate to have been lucky enough to have known Coach Wagstaff." Dr. Crowe added, "It's hard to verbalize the impact of the loss of coach Wagstaff to Tyler Junior College and the city of Tyler. It's a tremendous loss. Coach Wag epitomized athletic achievement to this college, to this city. He was a great friend, a mentor, a terrific competitor and a wonderful human being."

The loss of Coach came just one month after the surprising death of Dr. Billy Jack Doggett, long-time teacher and athletic director and Wag's nephew.

Coach Wagstaff was quite visible at each TJC home game as he sat in his chair on the north end of Wagstaff Gymnasium, named for him in 1970.

A chair will remain in his spot at Wagstaff Gym.

Many people treasured his friendship and just knowing him. Although his coaching achievements are virtually unmatched in junior college athletics, many people reflected on his devotion

to his family and his players.

"People always ask me what I remember most while I was at Tyler Junior College," said James "Poo" Welch, an All-American basketball player at TJC during the 1968-69 season and now the head basketball coach at Canton High School. "It wasn't a particular game or shot, but just the fact I got to know Coach Wagstaff. He not only made me a better ballplayer, but a better person. He was like a second father to me."

Former Apache and head basketball coach Roy Thomas echoed Welch's feelings.

"It's hard to grasp this moment, just like my dad two years ago," Thomas said. "You knew this day was coming, but you're not ready for it. Just think of all the lives Coach Wagstaff



Left to right, Kevin Eltife, Mayor, Tyler; Joseph Z. Ornelas; Coach Floyd Wagstaff; Dr. William R. Crowe; and Robert Peltier, at the Wagstaff Golf Tournament in 1997.



# his legend

LIVES ON ...

touched, not just players, but countless students. I had the privilege of playing for him from 1968 to 1970 and then I had the opportunity to coach (at TJC) for 11 years. That gave me a chance to be around Coach Wagstaff again. His passing is a loss, not only to Tyler Junior College, but to Tyler, Texas and East Texas. Coach Wagstaff will be sorely missed."

Former TJC All-American Janice Mulford added, "Coach Wagstaff would give you lots of advice and give you his opinion. He made you feel special."

Dr. Joseph Prud'homme, who played basketball at TJC, said Wagstaff was a huge influence on the lives of many.

"I really think the major reason my kids (Joey and Steven) went into coaching was because of Coach Wagstaff," Dr. Prud'homme said. "Coach Wag was so instrumental in developing young people."

Maxene Robinson, longtime TJC retired employee, thought more of Wagstaff's attention to his family.

"It was June 1958 and I remember Coach Wagstaff bringing the twins, Becky and Betsy, up to the college," she recalled. "Then later it was Peggy. I just think fondly back on how he was devoted to those girls."

Coach Wagstaff's influence continues.

"I loved seeing him," Apache Ladies coach Lee Ann Riley said. "Our relationship was special. When he was ragging on me, I knew he felt well."

"I know that I'm a better person and a better coach because I got the opportunity to know him."

Although primarily known as a basketball coach, he had a phenomenal record of 130-36 as head coach of the Apaches football team. His 1948 TJC team won the Junior Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

He was named Texas Junior College Coach of the Year in 1949, 1953 and 1960.

He shared the honor with Kilgore College football coach Charlie Simmons in 1970.

In 1972, Coach Wagstaff was honored as Tyler's most outstanding citizen as the T.B. Butler Award recipient.

He broke the juco basketball record for wins on Jan. 15, 1972, when his Apaches defeated Henderson County Junior College (now known as Trinity Valley Community College). It was his 660th win, breaking the mark held by A.A. "Fizz" Wills of Joliet, Ill.

Coach Wagstaff, who noted he developed his basketball philosophy from fellow legendary coaches Hank Iba and Adolph Rupp, said, "I've had a lot of good athletes and the Lord has been on my side all of these years."

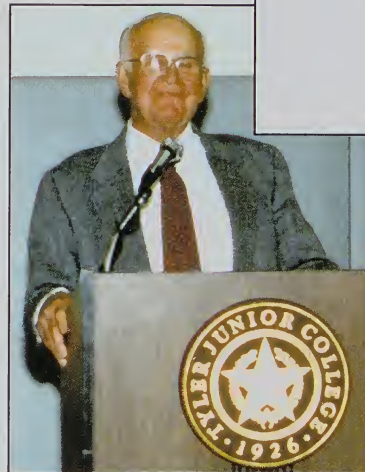
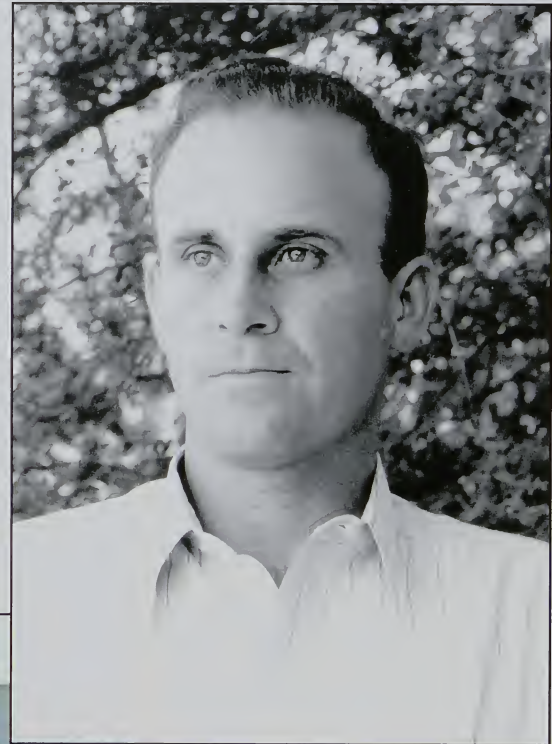
Coach Wagstaff was also the first coach to recruit black athletes in Region XIV. He signed Jesse Marshall, Jim Brooks and Leon Daggett in 1966.

Paul "Bear" Bryant, while athletic director at Texas A&M University, asked Coach Wagstaff three times to become Aggie basketball coach. Three times he turned Bryant down.

"I told him I was settling down in Tyler and I wanted to make it my home," Coach Wagstaff once said.

Coach Wagstaff was born Jan. 8, 1911 in Shelby County, near the Louisiana border in deep East Texas.

He played on Joaquin's first football team in 1930. He wore the number 13.



Coach Wagstaff later graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1937. He taught at Paxton School and coached the basketball team after college.

He later was hired as coach at Kilgore High School. While working on his master's degree at North Texas State University, Coach Wagstaff was hired as head basketball coach and assistant football coach at Tyler High School.

He joined TJC in 1946 as the school's first football coach and athletic director.

He was the first person inducted into the TJC Sports Circle of Honor.

In 1993, the Nell and Floyd Wagstaff Endowed Athletic Scholarship fund was established with the TJC Foundation. The fund represents potential scholarships for deserving student-athletes.

"The minute Coach Wagstaff met you, he made you feel special," Crowe said.

"It was wonderful to see people's eyes sparkle when he came into the room. People just naturally gravitated to him.

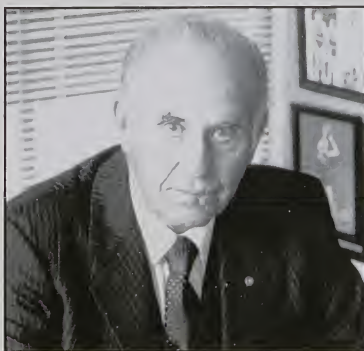
"Coach Wagstaff was with TJC for 54 years — almost the total life of this institution," Dr. Crowe said at his funeral service. "I don't know what we did the 20 years before Coach Wagstaff was here and I don't know what we will do for the next 20 years.

"It's said people are God's machinery, then Coach Wagstaff was His greatest mechanic." ■



# Wagstaff

COACH



father



Wag with David Lunceford, left, Jimmy Murphy, Mack Pogue and Dr. Billy Jack Doggett in September 1995.

he was like a

Floyd Wagstaff touched lives at Tyler Junior College.

Whether on the sidelines of a football field or basketball court, or walking the halls of Tyler Junior College long after retirement, "Coach Wag" connected with people.

In his 38-year career as TJC coach and athletic director, Coach Wagstaff accumulated a long list of accomplishments and awards both in the sports arena and off. But those who met him, learned from him and called him friend say those are only the tip of the iceberg.

When Coach Wagstaff died at age 89 on Feb. 5, 2000, he left behind no greater legacy than his friends. In saying one last goodbye, some of them recalled their favorite memories of "Wag."

For more than half a century,

David Braymer

of Oklahoma City, Okla., remembers the first motivational speech Coach Wag gave before the first game of the first Tyler Junior College Apache football team. Braymer, who played football for Wagstaff from 1947-48, said the game against the Henderson County Cardinals was played in the old John Tyler High School stadium.

"I remember he had brought an old \$2 suitcase. He pushed his hat back on his head and put his foot up on the suitcase and said, 'Boys, Tyler doesn't take losers. I don't know about y'all, but I've got my stuff packed and can get out of here in a hurry if we lose.'

by Shelly Roark



"Another time he told someone, 'I don't know much about coaching. I just look at them (boys) like they're a pack of hunting dogs. I keep 'em on a leash and then say go get 'em.' He was a real motivator."

(Braymer is now national marketing director for HB & Associates in Oklahoma City.)



said his years as guard, center and linebacker on Coach Wag's team at TJC in the mid-1940s were unforgettable. "He was probably the greatest motivator I ever saw."

Price remembers the first game his team lost of the year. "We were supposed to win. It was the first game held at Rose Stadium. We got beat 14-7. He was so mad that he had us on the field at 6 a.m. the next morning—Saturday morning—running wind sprints. We won the next one."

Price remembers another night they lost with a more touching ending.

"When we played Lamar in 1948, it was the last game, in Beaumont and real foggy. We would have been conference champions if we had won, but we had a horrible night. (Coach) wanted to win so bad. As we got on the bus at the end of the field, he had tears rolling down his cheeks. He wished all good luck and said, 'If any of you ever get in jail, I'll come get you out. No matter what time.'"

(Kirby Price is retired and lives at Lake Kiowa, near Gainesville.)



played TJC football 1947-49. He recalls a little "college relations" work the coach did off the field.

"On Sundays, we would load up and all go to the churches of the area. We went to all the different churches as a team at first. Then, (Coach) said, 'These are the churches. Pick your own, boys, you need to go.' He did as much for the (college) relationship with the community as anybody. He found people to give us rides to church, because back then, we were out in the country and it was a long walk to town. You would pray for a ride."

(Bahnsen is currently a professor at the University of North Texas at Denton.)



Floyd Wagstaff, second from right, accepts a NJCAA national basketball champion trophy in 1949. With him are two TJC athletes, Jerry Champion, right, and Joe Palafox, third from right.



Former football player Jack Murphy said there are too many stories to tell about Coach Wagstaff.

"I could tell you all kind of stories. I was raised down the road here from TJC. I was here as a young boy when (Wagstaff) started in 1947. I always thought he was God. He was always such an inspiration to me and my family. I have two other brothers who also played football.

"He was a simple man who had a great feel for people. While he could be firm—he could get on you real well—he had a certain quality about him that separated him from the rest.

"You just don't meet too many people like Coach Wagstaff. He's a legend. He'll be a loss to TJC."

(Murphy played football at TJC from 1958-59 and currently lives in Gladewater.)



played football in 1953 for TJC. He said Coach Wagstaff's legacy is the bond of friendship he shared with many former players.

"He probably is one of the greatest people persons that I ever knew. But his biggest attribute was maintaining a bond with some of his players as they went on through life. I had a stronger bond with him now than (when I played football.)

"He stood for a lot. He had a lot of high morals and recognized people who had high morals.



*"He instilled in his players the desire to succeed in life, not just succeed in football. In fact, I owe my success in business to things I learned from him while playing football."*

(Murphy owns an insurance and financial planning firm in Houston.)

### herbert richardson

knew Wagstaff not only as coach, but as a peer. Richardson played basketball at TJC 1946–48. Then, Wagstaff brought him back to town in 1957 as his first basketball assistant.

Richardson went on to retire from TJC after 27 years of coaching.

*"He taught me a lot about the game of basketball, the simple things of basketball. He said the smallest amount of things you can give to a team is best. Don't load them up with too many plays. I patterned my coaching after Wagstaff and I never did coach a losing team."*

But more than a professional relationship, Richardson said, *"We had a father-son relationship."*

(Coach Richardson is retired and lives in Chandler.)

### david lunceford

likes to tell how he came to TJC to play basketball and ended up playing football.

*"I met (Coach Wag) for the first time in the old gym. I tried out for the basketball team. He told everybody that I wasn't any good, he just felt sorry for me. So he gave me a scholarship."*

Lunceford attended TJC in 1952–53. During that time, Coach

Wagstaff decided he could better serve on the football team.

Lunceford kept in touch with the coach after TJC. Once, while living in Baton Rouge, La., he brought Wagstaff down the Mississippi on a boat ride for a visit and then went to the Super Bowl. Lunceford said they had such a good time, the Coach didn't stop talking about it for weeks.

(Lunceford, retired oil executive, now lives in Tyler.)

### nancy lunceford

attended TJC in 1953–54. She remembers a slightly scarier version of Coach Wagstaff in the first years she knew him.

*"I was an Apache Belle and we were terrified of Coach Wag. He was very stern about football boys and girls spending too much time together. When I saw him coming down the hall, I would turn around and go the other way."*

(Mrs. Lunceford, who now lives in Tyler, said the Coach mellowed a lot in later years.)

### jimmy linney

played quarterback for Wag in 1950–51. He remembers the time he told coach he wanted to get married. In fact, he asked Wagstaff about the proposal even before asking his future wife's parents.

Linney remembers the coach had let him ride to a meeting in Longview. During the meeting, the coach offered to let Linney borrow his car to go see his girlfriend, a Kilgore Rangerette.

*"I asked him if I could keep my scholarship if I got married. He was quiet for a minute, then told me, 'Since I've been coaching, probably 100 guys have asked that question. I told them all no. But I'm going to make an exception.'"*

*"I think he touched so many lives. He was a master motivator. He had the ability to recognize which players needed to be pushed harder and which needed a pat on the back to get the most out of them. He was tough, but he was fair. You wanted to win because you wanted to please him. I never knew of anybody that was more dynamic. He led by example."*

### beverly linney

Linney's wife, Beverly, was often babysitter for the Wagstaffs and always felt like part of the family.

*"Maybe once in your lifetime you will meet someone like Wag. He made everybody's life seem like it was something special."*

(The Linneys live in Houston.)



TJC instructor Linda Cross helps Coach Wagstaff lead the Alumni Awards audience in a victory chant, October 1999.





Coach Wagstaff is pictured with 1999 Circle of Honor inductees, Ray McGallion, Kenneth Coffey, Jack Murphy and Gene Shamon, April 1999.

dr. james mulford

remembers Coach Wagstaff's presence as athletic director when she played girls' basketball in 1977-79.

"He took such a special interest in everybody. He just always made you feel so important, but he would get onto you if you needed it. He always had an opinion, but he was right most of the time."

(Ms. Mulford, an Apache Lady All-American, lives in Van.)

dr. sam houston

has memories of Wagstaff not as coach, but encourager.

"He was one of the greatest encouragements when I joined the TJC Board. He was one of the first to encourage me. He's the kind that made you feel very comfortable."

(Houston, a former TJC board member, is a surgeon in Tyler.)

dr. pinky baker

said he treasures the friendship that he developed with Coach Wagstaff during the 12 years Baker was employed at Tyler Junior College.

"My fondest memory is that he always invited me to sit by him at basketball games." From their perch above the floor, Baker said he and Wagstaff could critique coaches, players and everything that went on. "I can't tell you how many games we would sit and reminisce. He was such a permanent fixture in that gym. Now, I just feel kind of lost there without him."

Baker also fondly recalls Wagstaff's visits to the TJC Devel-

opment office where "he always enjoyed seeing everyone and made everyone feel very special."

van samford

and Coach Wagstaff had a relationship that spanned most of Van's life. The Nacogdoches resident said he grew up just down the road from the Wagstaff family in Paxton. "He used to say there were about nine people in Paxton and those were his relatives. Coach Wag was my high school basketball coach. That is where it all started."

Samford remembers the time Wagstaff asked his parents if Samford could accompany him to New Orleans to pick up a car for a friend. Of course, they had to hitchhike. "Everybody knew the Wagstaffs. They were dear friends. Mom said, 'Yes.' "

The most unique memory of the trip happened when the pair was "stranded somewhere in Louisiana," Samford said. "We couldn't catch a ride. Finally, a truck from Center, Texas, came by hauling chickens. We got on top of the chicken coops. We had been riding a pretty good ways when a highway patrol stopped us and made us get off. We started walking up the road and came upon the truck parked by the road. They were rearranging the chicken coops so we could sit down and not be seen."

Once in New Orleans, Samford said he and the coach saw everything from the racetracks to the cemeteries to the gambling casinos. "It was a fun trip. I was just an old country boy and had never been nowhere."

Samford said the Wagstaffs were just like family. He recalls once when he and his brother came down with pneumonia, members of the Wagstaff family sat with them all night during their illness and gathered chicken eggs to help pay for the nurse. "You can understand why I have such a good feeling toward those people. They not only helped us, they helped other people, too. Wag was just like family."

(Samford lives in Nacogdoches.)

dr. jose m. palafox

played basketball for Wagstaff 1949-50. He remembers a costly lesson he learned from the coach. "All the ballplayers were kind of afraid of Wag. This is one story that I never even shared with him. I cut class one day and ran into Coach Wag—of all people. He asked if I was supposed to be in class and I lied and told him I



had a toothache. He asked where and I pointed to one of my teeth. He said, 'Come with me.'

"He took me to the square in Tyler to a dentist's office. He said something to the receptionist and we went right in. We didn't even have to wait. They sat me in the chair with Wag standing right there watching. The dentist came in and I showed him which tooth I had showed to the coach. He tapped around on it and said he had to get it out. And it wasn't even hurting. Well, he pulled it with Wagstaff standing there. It was a molar! I wasn't about to cut class anymore. Everytime I put my tongue where my molar used to be, it reminds me never to lie."

(Dr. Palafox now lives in El Paso.)



Dr. Raymond Van Cleef extends wishes to Coach Wagstaff at his 80th birthday celebration.

played football for Coach Wagstaff 1947-48. He can attest to the coach's ability to keep discipline on the team.

"Once, when we went down to play Lamar, we went the day before the game. They were having a parade in town, right outside the hotel. We were told to go to the rooms and rest. Three or four of us decided we were going to go watch the parade. We got on the elevator and went down. When it opened up to the lobby, there was Coach Wagstaff. We said, 'Oh, we were just going up to our rooms.' He knew what we were up to and was just waiting.



Coach Wagstaff with trustee Harry Loftis in 1997.

"(Coach Wagstaff) always treated everybody alike. There were no favorites."

(Talkington served as a Kansas State Senator for 16 years and lives in Iola.)



During the 10th anniversary of Smoak's radio talk show on January 17, 2000, Wagstaff arrived to take part in the celebration and wound up on the live broadcast. True to his form, Wag had some whimsical remarks about talk radio, basketball and his coaching success.

*About David Smoak:*

"I'm about to think that you hire some of these folks who call in."  
 "(Smoak) will ask you a question and you can answer it pretty good and then he'll say, 'well, that's not good enough.'"

*About his own career:*

"I've been able to fool the people some way. I don't know how it happened. I'm in five halls of fame and I didn't do nothing ... I mean nothing."

*About current men's basketball coach Chris Crutchfield:*

"He's got some good material. ... He's done a respectable job. We'll know more about it at the end of the year. I've told him and he knows it, if he don't win, we'll be looking for a new coach. That goes with it." 🏠



Help us celebrate the legacy of "Coach Wag" with two special events on Saturday, June 24.

### **The Floyd Wagstaff Memorial Golf Tournament**

**Oak Hurst Golf Course, Bullard**

This tournament has raised more than \$50,000 for the Nell & Floyd Wagstaff Scholarship Fund over its 6 year run. Help us make its final presentation a success. Tee-off is 8 a.m. Entry fee is \$125.

As always, the weekend will begin with a Friday evening barbecue gathering at 6:30 p.m.

This year's meal is at the home of Charlie & Jackie McGinty.

For more information, contact Cecil or Joetta Roach at

903/894-7495 or 903/561-7615.

### **The 5th Annual Sports Circle of Honor Induction Ceremony**

**Apache Rooms, Rogers Student Center, TJC campus, 6:30 p.m.**

Join us to welcome three more of Coach's former players into the TJC Sports Circle of Honor.



**MILTON WILLIAMS**

*Basketball, 1954-56*



**CHARLES QUILTER**

*Football, 1947-49*



**ROYCE TOWNSEND**

*Football, 1948-50*

*To reserve tickets, contact Alumni Relations at 903/510-2382.*

*Proceeds from all events go toward completing the Nell & Floyd Wagstaff Scholarship endowment.*



# TJC's Retired T

## A wealth of knowledge, decad

b y R i c k D i a m

**T**he former trustees of Tyler Junior College are an amazing group of men. They have served in many professions, come from varied backgrounds and have different interests. And yet they all share a passionate commitment to the institution that they served, some for just a few years and some for decades. And talking to them is like looking back through years of history and seeing a great series of pictures of what TJC has been as it has grown and developed.

In the present information/electronic age, it's hard to remember back to when TJC was still in downtown Tyler, or still an extension of the Tyler school system, or still on its present location but without any trees in its front lawn! The beautiful campus and excellent programs didn't always exist. Can it be possible that not that long ago, TJC had a dress code banning skirts that were too short or sideburns that were too long? Listen to these memories—first, with former Board President Jack W. Flock.

### Jack W. Flock

*Served June 1970–May 1994*

Mr. Jack Flock is a native of Tyler. He attended Tyler public schools and then, he says, "I attended TJC a long time ago—when it was downtown." He played basketball at TJC and his squad won the state Junior College Championship in 1933. He graduated from TJC that same year, went to the University of Texas at Austin, and graduated with his undergraduate and law degrees there. He served in the Navy during World War II, and then returned to Tyler and has practiced law there ever since.



He has also been very involved with Tyler Junior College for many years. He was an associate faculty member, teaching in the adult night classes many years ago, and authored the "Oil & Gas Law" text used by the college. He was also interested in the college and its successes, and was asked by then-President Dr.

H. E. Jenkins to consider serving on the Board. It was in 1970, the same year when he was chosen as a Distinguished Alumnus of TJC, that he was first elected to its Board. He ended up serving four six-year terms on the Board, including two terms as its President.

He says of his time on the Board that it was "most enjoyable."

He singled out the visit to the campus of President Gerald Ford as a particularly significant moment. "I had a conversation with President Ford, and I have a great amount of respect for him. The student body and others certainly appreciated his coming to our campus. He is an honorable man and a credit to the presidency."

Flock remembers another key aspect of his time on the board as being the renovation of the campus that included the removal of the old "teepee" building and the construction of the new White Administrative Services Building. "That building has really raised the standard and the look of our campus a lot," Flock says, "and we think it's a great thing." He also cites the contributions made by the family that enabled the construction of the Ornelas Health and Physical Education Center as very important. Also a key part of the expansion of the college campus for Flock was the establishment during President Ray Hawkins' term of the Regional Training and Development Center on the East Loop. "That's one of the greatest things to happen at TJC," Flock says.

Flock notes that one of his favorite experiences as a Board member was a trip that he and his wife took with the Apache Belles and Band to Washington, D.C. "It was a great honor to my wife and myself; we went along with Dr. Earl C. Kinzie and his late wife, and we chaperoned the group to the Cherry Blossom Festival in the Capital. We took 200 students in two buses and had a great time. The group got to visit the White House and so forth. On the day we left to come back to Tyler, the manager of the hotel got a hold of Dr. Kinzie and myself and said he had never seen a finer group of young people—that he had not had a single problem with any of our students. And that, I think, is an indication of the kind of school we have at TJC."

Flock adds, "Overall, the one thing that stands out for me is the quality of the school—the character and qualifications of our great faculty; TJC is noted, and rightly so, for a fine faculty and staff—we've always been told, it's the best. One girl who



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went on from TJC to the University of Texas in Austin, I remember, came back home later and told me that the most excellent instructors she had in her college career were the ones she had right here at TJC. We on the Board were of course very proud of that.

"I told Dr. Jenkins and Ray Hawkins both that the greatest thing about TJC for me was that when I was a student there, it made me want to go further—with my education, my career. And that to me is the greatest thing we can give to our students, a sense of potential and purpose. And I know we do that at TJC."

## Dr. Samuel Houston

*Served January 1992–January 1999*

Dr. Sam Houston is the most recent of the former trustees to have served on the Board. Raised in Tyler, Houston says, "I didn't attend TJC when I was entering college myself, but I was always aware of its excellent reputation, and of course, when an opportunity came to serve, I was delighted to be involved."



Houston was approached by a good friend who encouraged him to serve on the Board. "This is a person whose opinion I've always judged as outstanding, and that's how I originally became connected to the Board. It's a decision I have never regretted."

A longtime Tyler physician and community leader, Dr. Houston was appointed to fill the unexpired Board position of Dr. Ed Potter in 1992. He was selected by fellow trustees in 1994 to serve as second vice-president, and then was selected as first vice-president in 1996. Houston was then unopposed in his first re-election bid in 1998. It was unfortunately discovered, however, later in 1998, that Houston's residence was on the property line dividing the TJC tax district. The Board reluctantly accepted his resignation, College President Dr. Bill Crowe saying that "this is a great loss for the College and the students it serves," and Crowe asserted that if Houston were to reside in the district in the future, the College would seriously consider re-appointing him to the

Board. Since then, Houston has continued to be a strong supporter of the College he loves.

Houston says of his time on the Board, "I always considered it a real privilege to be elected to the Board of a College such as TJC, that's one of the best in the nation. To be able to sit with a Board that helps to govern such an institution was a highlight in my career and life.

"We functioned very smoothly," Houston notes of the Board, "with an excellent mix of intelligent, business-minded people with good skills and qualifications. There were never personal agendas; all the relationships were very positive and enjoyable, with everyone I worked with having a mind to serve the greater good of the College."

One of the key issues Houston dealt with in his time on the Board was the process of electing a new President. "It was a hugely important responsibility, but fortunately, as it has turned out, it worked out exactly as we had hoped. Bill Crowe has done an excellent job as President. I was on the nomination and selection committee, and I think the committee did a great job."

Other aspects of the workings of the College were all important functions of the school, Houston says, but he particularly stressed financial concerns. "I don't want to single any one thing out, but I think finances are always very important. A number of steps were taken during my time on the Board that ensured financial responsibility and continuity for the College, and I think those really important steps have guided the College's operations into the right direction."

When asked what aspects of serving on the Board Houston particularly enjoyed, he says, "I think one of the things I enjoyed most is graduation day. To look into the young eyes—to shake their hands—sometimes those hands were a little bit shaky, or wet and cold from nervousness—is so very gratifying. It's a very significant day. You see in the faces of those students a lot of determination. You can't see it out in the audience, but handing them their diplomas or being up there with them on stage is very moving."

Houston adds, "I hold my time with TJC's Board in very high esteem indeed."



*Trustees breaking ground for the Health and Physical Education Center in 1986.*



# Judge Harry Loftis

*Served June 1966–May 1996*

Harry Loftis was only a few months old when his family moved to Tyler from nearby Brownsboro. They were poor and he remembers roasting peanuts to sell on the courthouse square when he was only seven years old—to buy money for school clothes. At 13 he was working for the *Tyler Courier-Times*, and for a year he had to drop out of high school to support his family. But he returned to school and was a very successful student—encouraged in part by speech teacher Eva Saunders, who would later become TJC Apache Belles director. “Eva helped me at a time when I could go either way in life. She was a great lady,” Loftis remembers.



After high school he attended TJC, then joined the Army Air Corps during World War II. After the war, he went to the University of Texas at Austin and received his undergraduate degree and a law degree. He and his new wife returned to Tyler and he has practiced law and served the community ever since. He has been Smith County district attorney and judge and has served in numerous civic organizations.

He was elected to the Board of Trustees of TJC in 1965 and served for 30 years, including fulfilling the role of President of the Board. When asked to name some of the key issues he remembers, he admits that it's a difficult task to narrow all the many things he was privileged to be involved with during his tenure.

“The College has certainly changed since the 1960s when I began,” he notes. “We built two-thirds of the present buildings during my time. We've gone through replacing two presidents of the College. There was a lot of importance with those processes, a great deal of time and energy. The last time we went through it, we conducted over thirty interviews, and then hired a man from just under our noses—and he was the best man for the job, as it turns out.

“My golden moment was the employment of Dr. Crowe as President. We didn't really know Dr. Crowe too well; he had worked up to the executive rank and we on the Board hadn't really had much business with him until then. We asked each of the then-three Vice Presidents if they would be willing to serve as Interim President when Ray Hawkins was resigning, and they were all willing and all helped out. They were all very tremendous persons. But when Bill Crowe came through, in his 20-minute interview, he never let up, he was amazing. Since that time, I've had several persons come to me and say that if we hadn't given a man of that quality a chance at leadership, we'd have lost him to another college. So I'm very gratified that we chose as we did.

“Years ago, if a person was not making high grades, we had required study halls at nights. We never had any trouble with kids concerning that policy. We provided tutors and teachers to help the students who needed the help.

“But we also had policies about male students with long hair, and even rules about beards. In time we realized that some students might cause us to go to legal rulings about those things, so we finally just settled. Times have certainly changed.”

Loftis remembers that in his first month on the Board, he noticed that a piece of land on the east side of the campus was available for sale. “I started telling the Board that our record of growth would mean we'd have to have it. We were able to buy the property for half its value in cash and half in tax breaks. It's since become part of the new practice field and parking lot—and as everyone can see, we needed that space very badly.”

Loftis also remembers his fondness for Coach Floyd Wagstaff. “When I went on the Board and was brand new, another Board member came and said to me that we should get the gym named for Floyd Wagstaff. I personally went to each Board member, and there was a lot of similarity between all of our feelings on that issue, and so it passed.”

Overall, Judge Loftis says, “It was a wonderful, wonderful thing for me to serve. My favorite part of all was making good decisions, working and studying and doing research with the Board, and then realizing later that we had done good things. I was so gratified by my service to the Board and to the fine College we have.”

# Dr. Edward M. Potter

*Served April 1974–January 1992*

Edward Potter began his association with TJC as a charter freshman of the College in 1926. He stayed for two years as a student, continued his education, and then returned to serve the College. He served as Dean and then as Vice President for 28 years total under President Harry Jenkins. He went on to serve on the Board for nearly 18 years, including a term as President of the Board.



He served in many capacities, including work with the Southern Association in its work of accreditation of colleges, and he was the chairman of the search and selection committee that recommended Dr. Raymond Hawkins when Dr. Jenkins retired. Dr. Potter resigned from the Board in 1992, but remained for many years a staunch supporter and advisor for the College.

He admits now that his memories of specific events in his long tenure are hard to differentiate, saying, “It's tough to keep it all straight now!”

Potter does note how much the campus had changed in his time on the Board and how much the College has grown in its programs and course offerings. He remembers with fondness the



many decisions the Board had to make—he says, “In a way, there were no tough decisions, since we had such good people, but in another way, they were all so important to the life of such an important institution that we took them all very seriously.”

He says that serving on the Board was not a difficult job, “but it required an awful lot of thinking and working. But it was so enjoyable and rewarding, it was so fulfilling, no one minded the hard work. It was a joy to see how the College grew and developed.”

When asked if the College was different, though, when he left the Board, than it was when he began, Potter notes, “In a way, it wasn’t very different at all. There were students and teachers and people getting together to learn and better themselves. It was always an atmosphere of sharing and camaraderie. And we all got along so well. It was always full of great folks in every area.

“I enjoyed the whole thing, every single phase of my time with the Board,” Potter adds.

## Dr. Jim M. Vaughn

*Served June 1950–May 1996*



When asked to describe Dr. Jim Vaughn, people involved with TJC and Tyler’s history can name any number of outstanding characteristics; they say that Dr. Vaughn is a generous philanthropist, a doctor of outstanding reputation, a community leader, and a businessman. Dr.

Vaughn has practiced medicine in Tyler for many years with a thriving business. But he is also a dedicated proponent of education.

Born and raised in Tyler, Vaughn attended TJC and then the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, where he received his M.D. in 1937. He continued his medical training in Oklahoma City and New Orleans and served a residency in Dallas. He then returned to Tyler and went into practice with his father, Dr. Edgar H. Vaughn. He served in World War II in the USMR Medical Corps, and then returned to Tyler, where he has served on numerous boards and directorships of community and corporate entities. He received TJC’s first Distinguished Alumnus award, as well as many other awards and recognitions.

He first joined the Board of Trustees of TJC in 1950. “TJC had been with the high school campus, and once it moved, I was out looking at all the buildings,” Vaughn recalls. “I’ve always been interested in buildings. I don’t really know why. Dr. Jenkins wanted me to run for the Board and persuaded me to run. I did. And I stayed on for 46 years.”

One period Dr. Vaughn remembers is the turbulence of the 1960s on campus. “There was a lot of rebellion,” he remembers. “There used to be this one troublemaker on the campus—I think he was one of the students. Dr. Jenkins would

have an area lined off for Trustee meetings. This one troublemaker would tell the others that the meeting was coming up, and students would come and heckle. So Dr. Jenkins told them we were meeting a few times when we really weren’t meeting at all—and that pretty well shut that down.

“The issue of race was a difficult one for a good while. At one time, two white young fellows who were for integration of the College were bringing a black young man onto the campus as a protest. Well, Dr. Jenkins met them and knew they weren’t students, so he said, ‘You two young men don’t have any authority to be on our campus, so you’ll have to leave—but I’d like to have this young man stay and I’ll give him the tour of the campus for you.’ And he did.”

Vaughn recalls, “We were fortunate to have a good administration for so many years. Dr. Jenkins was way up in his 80’s when he retired. They found out that he had some internal illnesses and he began to fade some. He was such a stalwart in Tyler, a leading citizen. After he faded, it wasn’t any time before they’d forgotten him, and he’d meant so much. But he was an imposing man, even though he wasn’t a physically large person. One time I took him out fishing, and made ME uneasy—I ran a red light first thing after we’d gotten on the road! And yet when we got out and were fishing, Jenkins just sat and fished, concentrating and focused. That’s what he was like. That’s how he accomplished so much.

“When he got ready to retire, the College had gotten so big, we really couldn’t run it in the way we had before, like we used to. So it was time for some changes.

“And in time, when Dr. Crowe came in—I think he’s wonderful—he got the finances in order with the help of the Board and the staff. The College is in excellent shape, I believe. I’m very proud of it. It’s been such a wonderful institution, so good for this community and region.”

Dr. Vaughn adds, “When Dr. Jenkins was talking me into running for the Board, he said, ‘It’ll be very pleasant.’ And he was right. It was a very enjoyable and meaningful experience for me all along, and I’ll always treasure it.”



*Vaughn, Potter, Loftis and Flock at 1999 luncheon.*

TJC is fortunate to have had such excellent Trustees guide its development and growth, and we thank these men for their contributions, their heart, their time, and their service. They’ve seen the College grow from its very beginnings—and we owe them a great debt of gratitude. 🏛️



# a sense for the game

## Freshman Apache excels despite inability to hear

By Shelly Roark

His opponents on the baseball diamond know Zachery Reagan is something special.

When he took over the starting shortstop position this season, players competing against Reagan and his teammates on the Tyler Junior College Apache Baseball team could not help but notice his skills.

What they don't easily notice is that Reagan is deaf. Spinal meningitis took his hearing when he was 14 months old.

It seems Reagan, who goes by Zac, hardly notices it himself.



A busy TJC freshman with a load of classes and hopeful baseball career, Reagan doesn't have time to give his hearing loss a second thought.

In fact, when he was recruited by TJC head baseball coach Jon Groth, he was trying out for the Kansas City Royals baseball team. Although he didn't make the professional team, Reagan said he will try again after college. He has been playing ball since he was 5 years old and says he would love to play professionally.



"We had seen Zac play at (Robert E.) Lee for the last couple of years," Groth said. "He has good baseball tools ... good hands as an infielder, good defensive skills, plenty of arm strength, agility and good hand-eye coordination. Offensively, he's still adjusting to being a college hitter. But, little by little, he's making good progress. He's continuing to improve his game."

A Robert E. Lee graduate, Reagan was named to First All-District Team for Utility (all positions) as a senior and Second All-District Team for Shortstop as a junior. He was also named Most Valuable Player for the Robert E. Lee team.

While in high school, Reagan also played basketball, and was named "Mr. Defense." "They called me 'Zac Attack,'" he said.

On the court or the field, actions speak louder than words and Reagan's abilities speak volumes, said Coach Groth. The coach said the team's regular shortstop was not able to start this year, so Reagan stepped in.

"He earned a chance to be our starting shortstop and we also use him as relief pitcher on occasion," Groth said.

The coach said Reagan is a good player and a good team member. "He has fit right in," Groth said. He said Reagan's hearing loss has not caused much of a difference. An interpreter does come to all the games and practices, but Groth said Reagan's hearing loss actually helps him focus on the field.

"Because of his condition, Zac usually does not miss signs. He picks up on visual signs and that is a slight advantage. Baseball is a very visual game," Groth said. Also, Zac is immune to "bench shocking," when the opposing team tries to intimidate the hitter by yelling and making noises.

"Sometimes in the baseball world, you would like to put earplugs on to cut out the noise and allow you to focus," Groth said.

Reagan said his teammates don't make a big deal out of his



hearing. They just accept him. "I like being on a team," said Reagan.

"All my teammates want to learn sign language, so I teach them. Some of the boys are taking American Sign Language now (at TJC)," he said.

Reagan admits, though, that many people are curious. And when he was younger, some even made fun of him. But Reagan doesn't let that bother him. He said most people are great and don't even think anything about it.

Reagan went to mainstream school with an interpreter most of his life. At TJC, he uses the interpreter program, as well.

His two older sisters, mom and dad all sign. With the help of a special hearing aid, Reagan has some residual hearing. But without it, he hears nothing.

In addition to signing, Reagan has always used his voice to speak. This semester he is even taking a public speaking class. "I'm nervous, but in public speaking I use my own voice," he said.

When not playing baseball or at school, Reagan said he also likes to hunt. "But my cousins tell me to be quiet because I step on the leaves (without knowing it)," Reagan said with a smile.

He also enjoys carpentry work. For two summers, he worked with a carpenter building fireplace mantles, trim and stairs.

"And I like to play football with my friends—for fun," Reagan said. Professionally, Reagan said he will stick to baseball. 🏠



# Faculty Profile:

## Margaret Hussey is TJC's LEGAL EAGLE

*by Nita Wilson*

In *As You Like It*, Shakespeare wrote, "all the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players ..." For the past ten years, one of the players on the Tyler Junior College classroom stage has been Dr. Margaret Hussey. Prior to joining the TJC faculty, Hussey performed in the legal arena as a member of the Potter, Minton, Roberts, Davis & Jones law firm. Hussey says the two professions share common characteristics. "Both of them require a lot of preparation time before you go onstage, and many people in a classroom or courtroom

may not realize that what they see presented is the culmination of many hours of work."

Hussey, who graduated from TJC in 1968, worked for General Electric before obtaining the opportunity to attend Baylor University Law School. She entered the legal profession in Tyler after graduating at the top of her class with the distinction of being *Law Review* editor. However, this was the 1970's—when women had limited career opportunities. In spite of her outstanding academic accomplishments, she was

not wooed by top law firms in the state as were male classmates. "We had not had civil rights legislation very long, and the notion of compliance was a bit foreign to some people," she says.

However, she landed a job practicing civil law just as she had planned, and she paved the way for other women professionals. She was the first female attorney the Potter firm hired. "It was unusual for a private firm to hire a woman back then, but everyone was very nice to me."

Hussey says she is very proud of her law degree. "My brother and I both dreamed of becoming attorneys from the time we were teen-agers, and we both made it."

After a decade at the law firm, Hussey joined the faculty at TJC, where she helps prepare students to become legal assistants. "They play a critical role in litigation," she says. "They also help lower legal fees. The more they are able to do, the less it will cost the client."

She seldom watches any of the legal shows on television because they grate on



*Hussey in her TJC office.*



her nerves. "Most of the time, they're not accurate," she says.

She prefers to spend her time reading, studying and thinking. "I like to work, to study the subject matter and to teach classes," she says.

She wants her students to understand the importance of discipline and good study habits. "Learning takes time," she says. "It requires thinking, concentration and analysis."

The dean of business and technology, Joan Jones, says Hussey has a love for teaching and for giving to her students. She challenges and inspires them to think and to reach a level of achievement beyond their expectations. "She is a terrific, gifted instructor who is very student oriented. She cares about the students and she has high standards for herself and for them."

Jones, who helped lure Hussey to TJC, describes her as the utmost professional who is a good role model for students. "She brings such incredible talent to the classroom. She has developed original materials from her experiences as a practicing attorney which include law scenarios that are real and challenging. She wants students to have a level of instruction and learning that will prepare them for what they will encounter in the workplace."

Jones says Hussey spends hours quietly helping people in need, but she is extremely modest about her accomplishments and her contributions to the community. She is reluctant to accept accolades and recognition. "She is a rare, wonderful, gifted, incredibly good person," Jones says. "She just goes about doing good things."

Hussey is well respected by her colleagues, who admire her knowledge, professionalism and dedication. Her program director, Jan Sherrouse, says she is a great teacher and a good friend. "She is not only well-liked and respected on the TJC campus by students and colleagues but also in the legal community. This really helps place students who graduate from the legal assistant program."

One of Hussey's students her first semester at TJC, Melissa Scott, agrees. Her contacts in the legal community continue to make Hussey a career resource. "The firm I'm with needed to hire someone recently, and she was the first person I called," says Scott.

She says Hussey helped prepare her for a career as a legal professional and became a friend. "Even now I call her for

advice if something new to me comes up. She's always willing to help me."

Scott says she liked Hussey a lot and had her for several classes during the two years she was at TJC. She describes

**"She is passionate  
about what she does.  
She loves the law. And  
she loves to teach."**



*Hussey with husband Larry at home.*

Hussey's classes as "challenging, but fun."

"Hard" was the term Tami Bonner heard to describe Hussey's classes, and, as an adult student who had been away from the academic scene for a number of years, she tried to avoid taking any of them. However, that wasn't possible. She needed to take a class that only Hussey taught. After that semester, Bonner tried to take as many of her classes as she could. "She is passionate about what she does. She loves the law, and she loves to teach," Bonner says. "She cares about students, and she wants them to do well."

Bonner says all her TJC instructors were really good, but Hussey teaches more than is written in textbooks such as professionalism, morals and values. "She made us really think. We had to work, but it was worth it."

All the work really paid off, Bonner says, when she took the examination to become a certified legal assistant. "I could see her and hear her when I was taking the test."

"Fabulous and fantastic" are the adjectives Bonner uses to describe Hussey. "I love her," she says.

Now Hussey and her husband, Larry, are making plans to enter another arena—retirement. She is looking forward to enjoying two of her favorite leisure-time activities: reading nonfiction and listening to music. They also plan to spend more time traveling. They enjoyed a recent trip north to Alaska. "It was beautiful and cool; yet it was rugged and brutal," she said. Florida is next on their itinerary, and they hope to enjoy historical and beautiful sites across the United States.

Hussey says she has been very fortunate because her husband has been extremely supportive and has encouraged her to pursue her goals. "I've been able to do everything I wanted to do. I wouldn't have done anything differently."

Jones says Hussey's retirement will be a great loss for TJC. "She's a joy to work with. We will truly miss her." 🏠



# RTDC

***Tyler Junior College  
Regional Training And  
Development Complex***

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## **TJC's Regional Training and Development Complex marks ten years of success**

**by Fred Peters**

The College's Regional Training & Development Complex celebrated a "Decade of Success" in linking business, government and education during a daylong open house in December.

U. S. Representative Ralph Hall served as keynote speaker for a luncheon with business people and educators, and praised TJC and civic leaders for recognizing an opportunity to cultivate new opportunity when the facility was established in 1989.

Hall (D-Rockwall) began serving in Congress in 1980, the same year Ronald Reagan was sworn in as President. Hall recalled the challenges of the decade, particularly the economic challenges related to the oil industry.

"(The RTDC) was launched at a time when states who wanted our energy didn't support the states who produced it and for any energy legislation to pass, we had to trade our souls for it because of 10 states for it and 40 against it."

Hall said the foresight of civic and educational leaders allowed RTDC to turn an empty factory building into a vital resource for future business endeavours.

"We have problems in this country, but for every bad thing you see on television, groups like this all across this country

have hearts for those who can't help themselves, and who make it known that they'll be supportive," Hall said. "You help those who wouldn't receive assistance if it weren't for you."

The Congressman reminded those in attendance that "the only place success comes before work is in the dictionary." Leaders at TJC, in the city and county not only saw a need and had a vision, but they supported the vision with action. "They gave birth to a concept that was logical and cooperative, and that's the reason it worked," he said.

Although a number of national figures take credit for the booming economy, we don't know who is responsible, Hall said. "I think it was spawned by groups like this who created the incubator for success. As a result of job training, thousands are afforded jobs and that means dignity."

Hall credits TJC President Dr. William R. Crowe for expanding the vision and working to add a technical center. "I think you're perpetuating the partnership of those who have planned and worked."

Hall congratulated all those who worked to make the



*Tyler Chamber of Commerce President and Economic Development Executive Director Tom Mullins addresses RTDC celebrants.*



# CARE of ACCESS

partnership successful. "We look back with a lot of pride and we look forward with great confidence that we're going to accomplish what the writer Jerry McBenison said, the greatest good for the greatest number," he said.

During an outdoor ceremony at which a \$177,000 loan note, paid in 1998, was shredded, Dr. Aubrey Sharpe, TJC dean of continuing studies, applauded the vision of then-TJC president Dr. Raymond Hawkins and the TJC Board of Trustees for making the project a reality.



"It was clear TJC was the best prepared source for business and industry training and it was time to expand our ability to meet those needs," he said.

Statistics show that non-credit enrollments grew from 4,521 in the 1989-90 school year to 15,675 in 1998-99 and that the RTDC hosted nearly 500 community events during the 1998-99 school year.

"Through this facility, TJC touches more lives than we ever thought was possible 10 years ago when trustees were considering purchase of an abandoned building," Sharpe said. 🏠



*U.S. Rep. Ralph Hall helps shred the RTDC loan note.*

**4,521 enrolled in 1989-90  
non-credit courses**

**15,675 enrolled in 1998-  
99 non-credit courses**

**RTDC hosted nearly 500  
community events in  
1998-99**



Need to learn to swim? Tyler Junior College Continuing Education can help.

Have a penchant to learn to play the dulcimer? Call TJC.

Want to draw? "Who you gonna call?"

Interested in taking up fly-fishing? You can learn the ropes, or lines, on campus.

Through TJC's Continuing Education office you will find a smorgasbord of courses including bridge, ceramics, floral design, gardening, global interests, photography, real estate, sign language, Spanish and travel.

For fun, work skills and personal edification, TJC Continuing Education offers approximately 200 courses. The Continuing Education Curriculum includes more than 30 computer classes from keyboarding for beginners to designing web pages.

Dean of Continuing Studies Dr. Aubrey Sharpe boasts that TJC and the Regional Training and Development Complex offer lifelong learning to help people "from the cradle to the grave."

Literally, new parents, grandparents or pre-school providers can enroll in child care classes to learn the latest techniques on preparing wee ones for a wonderful life. Physical fitness and long-term health training are available to make later years more enjoyable.

"Some people think of continuing education for career preparation or retraining to upgrade job skills," Sharpe said. "We do offer classes for those purposes, but we also have a wide variety of classes for personal growth and recreational enjoyment."

Mrs. Helen Brown, Tyler, takes continuing education classes for pleasure. "I've really enjoyed my classes at TJC. I've enjoyed meeting new people, and all the faculty and staff are just wonderful," she said. "It's rewarding. I'm retired, and it gives me something to do that's worthwhile."

The fun doesn't end when class is dismissed. Last year, former fly-fishing students took a field trip to Mountain Fork River near Broken Bow, Oklahoma. "Being out and seeing nature is a thrill to me," Jeff Rash, fly-fishing student said. "I love the challenge too." Prizes were awarded for the biggest rainbow trout, the most trout and the best tie.

Learning is the main objective of Ms. Thalia Schmitt, Tyler. "I've taken several classes from dance to computers, and I plan to take several more courses," she said. "I want to keep my mind active. I love taking the courses, and applying what I've learned is important to me."

Three years ago, Seniors College was established to provide education programs for people age 50 or older. "The mission is to provide life-long opportunities that broaden the mind, challenge the spirit and maximize human potential," Sharpe said.

Some courses such as East Texas Bird Watching, Genealogy and Tai Chi are just for fun, while others deal with current

issues facing our nation, state or area. Sharpe said these "hot button" courses will change from session to session.


"Give us more classes! I've taken all the after-55 computer classes, and I'm ready for more advanced Microsoft Word," exclaimed Ms. Robbie Meador, Tyler. "I want to learn Quicken and how to use graphics more."

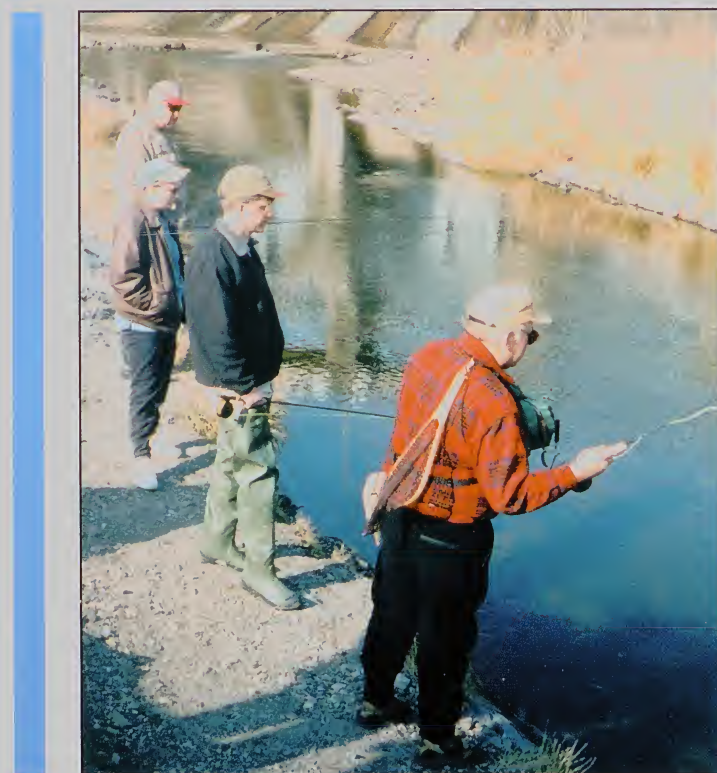
Ms. Meador said she enjoys meeting new people and learning. "I've been very pleased with my classes. If you go and want to learn, you can learn a lot."

Continuing education students agree that everyone can get more out of life with cultural enrichment and enhancement of the quality of life by being a life-long learner and continuing their education through interesting experiences at TJC.

"I saw an ad in the paper several years ago for an introductory computer class, and I decided to take it for enjoyment. I was very impressed, and I'm still going. I like the atmosphere and the teachers are really good. I get a lot of personal satisfaction from the classes, and I benefit from them too," Mrs. Helen Brown said.

As you can see, everything from "A" as in art to "Z" as in zither can be found at TJC. And, if it's not offered, suggest it.

"If there's a need or a demand and we can meet it through continuing ed, we're going to," Sharpe said. 



*Fly-fishing students put their new-found skills to work during a class field trip to Broken Bow, Oklahoma.*



# DEVELOPMENT

## Collector Donates Large Collection of Indian Artifacts to College

Al Herrington of Arp, Texas, who has spent a lifetime collecting Native American artifacts from all across the US, recently presented the College with a large collection of artifacts for display and educational purposes.

While a majority of the collection comes from the East Texas area and represents the Caddo Nations tribe, other artifacts represent the Sioux, Alabama Cashada, Shoshoni, Anasazi and Apache.

The collection consists of more than 1,400 artifacts such as points, arrowheads, blades, knives, pottery, jewelry as well as the pictured ceremonial tomahawk. The pride of the collection however, are several bowls, pots, and other pottery pieces that are fully in-tact with a stunning beauty that and will be a focal point of interest for thousands of visitors.

The Office of Development and the staff of the Vaughn Library are currently working to raise the funds to build a display area for this magnificent collection. TJC believes that this collection will be an educational tool for all who are interested in learning more about the Native American culture and their history in East Texas.

"It is our intention to provide a facility so that the collection may be used to its fullest potential and to provide



*David Starnes, director of development, left, with Marian Jackson, director, library information services, Al Herrington, and Dr. Mickey Slimp, dean of learning resources.*

educational opportunities to all citizens of East Texas and beyond," said Dr. Mickey Slimp, TJC dean of learning resources. "The opportunity to preserve a great heritage and to help communicate the Native American Heritage through this collection is a prime objective."



**CADILLAC DONATED**—The College's automotive technology program, based at John Tyler High School, received a donation of a 2000 model Cadillac DeVille recently from General Motors and Wagner Cadillac of Tyler. The donation was made after the discovery of damage to the car that occurred during transport to the Tyler dealership. It will be used as a model and tool for automotive repair by John Tyler High School students participating in the TJC program. The College assumed operation of the automotive technology program with the start of the 1999–2000 school year. The program will eventually expand to offer certificate-based training for JTHS and TJC students in mechanical and auto body repair, said Dean of Business and Technology Joan Jones. Pictured, left to right, Nathan Hollis, principal of John Tyler High School; Jones; Don Ellis, sales manager, Wagner Cadillac, Tyler; Dr. William R. Crowe, TJC president; and Larry Shields, GM Marketing Area Manager.



## Alumni Association Establishes 88<sup>th</sup> Presidential Scholarship

The Tyler Junior College Alumni Association presented the TJC Foundation with a check for \$25,000 to establish The TJC Alumni Association Presidential Scholarship. The money was raised through membership dues. Scholarship criteria call for dependents of Alumni Association members to be given first preference in selection.

Presidential Scholarships are awards of \$2,000 per year and are presented to incoming TJC freshmen who demonstrate academic excellence and leadership in extracurricular high school and community activities and who rank in the top 10 percent of their graduating high school class.

The Presidential Scholarship program was inaugurated in 1983 with the establishment of The Dulse Lux Hudnall Presidential Scholarship and The Dr. Harry L. Jenkins Presidential Scholarship.



**DONATION AIDS TJC SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM**—Students of TJC's diagnostic medical sonography program are the beneficiaries of a recent donation from East Texas Medical Center at Athens. The hospital donated an Advanced Technology Labs UltraMark 9 ultrasound imaging system, capable of diagnostic scans of abdomens, small parts and vascular pathways. The equipment was presented to TJC by Patrick Wallace, hospital administrator (not pictured). Pictured are (left to right), Debby Williams, ETMC Athens director of radiology; Gina Hunter, ETMC Athens ultrasound technician; TJC's Jan Viken, clinical coordinator for diagnostic medical sonography; Kim Russell, executive director, TJC Foundation/director of corporate and Foundation relations; Debra Henson, TJC clinical instructor for diagnostic medical sonography; and Pam Brower, instructor/director, diagnostic medical sonography.



Alumni relations director, Betty Briggs, left, and TJC President Dr. William R. Crowe, right, accept a donation from Alumni Association President John Stephenson, and past president J. Scott Ellis.



**McCLENDON RETURNS TO TYLER**—Noted TJC graduate and White House journalist Sarah McClendon, center, was treated to a reception in her honor at the Bonner-Whitaker-McClendon House, courtesy of the TJC Foundation, in April. McClendon was in Tyler to serve as featured speaker for a breakfast event sponsored by Zonta Club the following day. Pictured with Sarah are (left to right, front to back), Kim Russell, Tobin Allen, Cassandra Loftis; Betty Briggs, Sherral Hoffman; David Starnes, Carol McGinty; Dr. David Bailey, Hollis Pinyan, Dr. Vickie Geisel, Dr. Bob Peters, David Lunceford, Joan Jones, Dr. Eugene Allen and Kevin Fowler.



# Good Will Hunting?

*David Starnes, TJC director of development, and Dr. Kim Russell, executive director of the TJC Foundation, provide the following words of guidance for effective estate planning.*

## What is a Will?

All in all, a will is simply a legal record of your wishes regarding the use of the assets you have accumulated during your lifetime. While a will is a free-standing document, it can also be used to create a variety of other plans which take effect either immediately following death or many years after. Because of its amazing flexibility, a well-drafted will is the key planning tool available to express your estate planning desires.

## What can a "good will" do for me?

Perhaps one of the most important factors to consider with a well-written will is your family. You will have a sense of peace knowing that many decisions have already been made and communicated. Once a will has been drawn and executed, a plan will then be in place to support your spouse, sons, daughters and grandchildren.

Your will can also provide support for your favorite charity. Americans are supportive of thousands of non-profit organizations every year. Occasionally, a person with or without heirs will leave his or her entire estate to a charity. Most people, however, distribute the bulk of their estate to their loved ones. They may then satisfy their charitable interests by leaving a set amount, a portion of, or the residual of their estate to charity. Charitable transfers are also tax deductible for federal estate tax purposes and can have a major impact on an estate plan.

## Will My Estate be Taxed?

Your estate will not necessarily owe any additional income tax, however, your estate could and most likely will face additional estate taxes. Getting the advice of a **well-qualified** estate tax planner can be critical to the burden you leave on your family during the settlement of the estate. Pursuant to the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, decedents dying in the year 2000 will owe estate taxes if you leave assets worth more than \$675,000 to someone other than your spouse. This law and many others may apply to your financial situation and can have a major impact on your estate plan.

## How big does my estate need to be before I need a will?

If you own assets and desire to control the destiny of those assets, a will is the place to start. Many individuals make the mistake of forgetting to add their life insurance policies to their net worth. A young couple getting started in life may have a few investments and are no where near the \$675,000 provision. However, upon ones death the Insurance policy may easily exceed that amount and is now taxable.

## How do I begin?

Prepare an inventory of personal data. Include the current value and income tax basis of all your assets, how they are owned, your liabilities, and names and addresses of the intended beneficiaries. Think about your goals and what you would like to see accomplished as if there is no estate or gift tax, identifying whom you want to benefit, whom you trust to manage your property and how you want the property managed.

You are now ahead of most individuals and are better prepared to visit with your attorney or financial advisor about your estate plan.

## If I have questions?

If you have any questions about this subject or any other subject related to charitable estate planning, please call the office of development and we will be glad to assist you. You can also visit with your attorney or financial advisor who will be able to answer your questions.



Tyler Junior College Foundation  
Office of Development  
903-510-2520



# THE ARTS

## Choral Groups Perform in London's Millennium Parade, Concert

Two TJC singing groups were among approximately 30 U.S. performance groups to take part in the Millennium Parade in London, England on New Year's Day.

In addition to marching in the largest parade in Europe, the TJC Chamber Singers and Harmony & Understanding performed in the London Parade Concert Series on Thursday, December 30, and were joined on stage at one point by the Valley Forge Military Academy & College Band.

The concert performance took place in historic Westminster Hall, on the shore of the River Thames.

"This was a tremendous opportunity for our students and for the College to continue the tradition of excellence these two groups have earned through many years of performing," said Dr. Cheryl Rogers, director of music and dance.

The Chamber Singers and Harmony & Understanding were among three groups from Texas invited to participate in the parade and concert series.

The Chamber Singers, comprised of 26 singers, is a select group which presents primarily chamber choral literature.

Harmony & Understanding is a select group of 15 students which performs modern popular music. Both groups are selected from the Concert Chorus, which includes all TJC vocal music students.

The TJC groups arrived in London on Wednesday, December 29, rehearsed during the day on Thursday, then performed that evening, in Westminster Hall.

The tour group remained in London through New Year's Day and returned on Tuesday, January 4, 2000, and rang in the new millennium among more than a million other revelers along the banks of the River Thames.

Later that morning, the TJC contingency participated in the 14th Annual London Parade, featuring 12,000 performers from all over the world and attracting a street audience of more than a million people. Portions of the parade and London Millennium Festival were broadcast worldwide.

The parade route started at Parliament Square, opposite the Houses of Parliament. It continued around Trafalgar Square, along Piccadilly, and ended at Berkeley Square,

approximately two blocks from Buckingham Palace.

Harmony and Understanding, organized in 1971, dances and sings popular music that spans generations, from show tunes of the '40's to contemporary songs.

Over the years, the group has performed at Carnaval in Nice, France; at a Sister Cities Concert in Yachiyo, Japan; at Texas Stadium during Dallas Cowboys half-time shows; and at the State Fair of Texas, the Texas Rose Festival and the Miss Texas Pageant.

The Chamber Singers also perform a wide-range of music, from classical to contemporary. Their performance resume includes singing in New York's Carnegie Hall in March 1998.

Members of the Chamber Singers are: Crystal Bliss, Canton; Elizabeth Bond, Carthage; Alvertice Bowdre, Tyler; Mindy Comte, Jacksonville; Jason Cutting, Athens; Holly Denby, Tyler; Candice Dodd, Tyler; Katy Dickson, Austin; Gwen Edwards, Tennessee; Matt Ellis, Tyler; Matt Fernandez, Jacksonville; Matt Harper, Kaufman; Ryan Honneycutt, Tyler;

Jeremy Johnson, Tyler; Chris Mercer, Tyler; Lindsey Newton, Jacksonville; Jeremy Ogea, Whitehouse; Clay Parker, Tyler; Marie Parker, Van; Sherona Ray, Kilgore; Josh Reneau, Pollock; Amber Stary, Kerrville; Alessia Todde, Italy; Daniel Young, Tyler and Jeff Zimmerman, Tyler.

Members of Harmony & Understanding are: Jason Cutting, Athens; Holly Denby, Tyler; Katy Dickson, Austin; Candice Dodd, Tyler; Matt Ellis, Tyler; Matt Fernandez, Jacksonville; Ishah Floyd, Nacogdoches; Matt Harper, Kaufman; Matt Harrington, Tyler; Lindsey Newton, Jacksonville; Clay Parker, Tyler; Josh Reneau, Pollock; Kimberly Sulser, Tyler; Katy Thomas, Tyler; and Jeff Zimmerman, Tyler.

Dr. Cheryl Rogers, director of music and dance at TJC, also directs Harmony and Understanding and the Chamber Singers.

Dance instruction for Harmony & Understanding is provided by Candy Crocker Jordan.





## Apache Belles Dance Their Way Through Dublin, Ireland

Add the people of Dublin, Ireland to the list of admirers of the TJC Apache Belles, who have been dazzling audiences throughout the world for more than 50 years. The dance group performed in the spectacular Y2K St. Patrick's Day parade in Dublin, and they were special guests at the Lord Mayor's Ball where they received a standing ovation.

It was a golden moment the Belles, Guard and Belles director Ruth Flynn will always remember. "After the parade, we changed into formal attire for the ball. Following dinner and entertainment, the Belles changed again for their clogging-tap dance performance," Ms. Flynn said. "When they finished, everyone stood and cheered. For that to happen at the stroke of midnight was like a fairytale—like Cinderella."

Ms. Flynn said another treasured memory was the Saint Patrick's Day Parade before a half-million spectators. The Belles have marched in parades in New York City, Washington, D.C., Dallas, Houston and Tyler, but the Dublin parade was like nothing they had ever experienced. "It was like stepping back into history down cobblestone streets with all the magnificent architecture along the route," she said.

During the three-mile, two-hour march, Ms. Flynn, who leads the Belles, often looks back at them parading up the street behind her. "I turned around at the top of a hill, and there they were along with the city of Dublin—all the people, the scenery, the colors. It was such a majestic, panoramic view," she said.

Since there was a lull in the parade, she had all the girls turn around so they could experience the magnificent sight.

The group began the tour of Ireland in Limerick. They drove through the Clare countryside to Liscannor where they viewed the magnificent Cliffs of Moher. From there, they journeyed to the beautiful limestone plateau of The Burren.

A highlight of the trip was a visit to Bunratty Castle with its re-creations of 19th century village life and traditional crafts at Bunratty Folk Park. They enjoyed Irish music and dances following a banquet at the castle.

They relaxed on the grounds of Adare Manor in the quaint, thatched village of Adare, and explored Killarney Lakes.

Dublin highlights included a tour to many of the city's historical sights including St. Patrick's Cathedral and Trinity College where they saw the impressive library and many of its historical holdings including the ninth century illuminated manuscript, the Book of Kells, and an early Irish harp.

"The Belles worked so hard to get to Ireland, and, as a teacher, I was delighted that they were able to have such wonderful, educational experiences," Flynn said. "When you're planning a trip like this, you have a fantasy of how

you want it to be. It was everything I wanted and more. It was really a dream come true!"

The Apache Belles for 1999–2000 are: Jennifer S. Amos, Duncanville; Nikki Collins, Porter; Jessica Colston, Nacogdoches; Candace Coughlin, Azle; Katy Dickson, Austin; Jonna Dowdy, Troup; Kristi Flippin, Irving; La'Tonya Foster, Chapel Hill; Meredith Evon Getting, Arlington; Kristin Hager,



McKinney; Tammy Hensley, Whitehouse; Jessica Hill, Hamshire; Melissa M. Himes, Caddo Mills; Stacy Loftin, Whitehouse; Lauren McMillan, Conroe; Donnita Nevels, Corsicana; Lezlee O'Kelly, Whitehouse; Kristi Spradlin, Mesquite; Bethany Sturges, Irving; Jennifer Taylor, Tyler; Katie Thomas, Forney; Amanda Vollmer, Lewisville; and Jessica M. Warner, Irving; Stephanie Bishop, Chandler; T'Shara Jennings, Tyler; Nicole Fuquay, Bedford; Jill Ward, Humble; Laura Neal, Dublin (TX!); Angela Halter, Nederland; Nicole Smith, Gladewater; Meg Torregrossa, Navasota; Crysta Lee, Lindale; Gabrielle Liles, Tatum; Jennifer Cooley, Hallsville; Brandi Burkett, Hallsville; Allison Connolly, Hallsville; Lindsay Lawrence, Hallsville; Miranda Kyle, Huntington; Amy Leister, Arlington; Heather Peden, Arlington; Susanna Mohammadi, Lewisville; and Candace Williamson, McKinney.

Dance captains are Stephanie Bishop, Angela Halter, Lindsay Lawrence and Jill Ward. Head dance captain is Nicole Fuquay.



# SPORTS

## Ladies Bring Home First TJC Basketball Title in 49 Years

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS! Those two words certainly are the highlight of the spring sports season at TJC.

After tallying an 11-1 mark in the fall, the Apache Ladies spent their Christmas break dreaming of a national championship. The team posted 16 straight victories to open the spring season, including a 77-54 victory at Trinity Valley. TVCC later beat the Apache Ladies by eight, setting up a coin flip to decide the host for the conference tournament.

Coach Lee Ann Riley correctly called tails, and the Region XIV Women's Tournament would call Wagstaff Gymnasium home.

The Apache Ladies opened their run for glory with a 81-60 win over Kilgore, while Trinity Valley defeated Blinn 71-65, setting up a third and final showdown of the season.

In front of a boisterous, towel-waving crowd, the Apache Ladies earned their first trip to nationals since 1992 with a 65-49 win over their rivals.

Of course, a conference championship was one of Riley's goals for the year, but not *the* goal. With unfinished business at hand, the Apache Ladies traveled to Salina, Kansas with a national championship in mind.

The Ladies won their first three games by double-digits, setting up a winner-take-all game against Southwestern Illinois, the

surprise of the tournament.

Led by Aimee Michelson's hot hand early on, the Apache Ladies got off to a 10-2 start and never looked back, capturing their first ever national championship with a 57-39 victory.

The team finished the year with more victories than any other TJC women's basketball team (34); won their first conference championship since the 1980s; beat

their rival, Trinity Valley, twice, including a 65-49 win in the conference tournament finals; and won their four national-tournament games by an average of 20 points.

Coach Riley was named Region XIV co-Coach of the Year as well as the NJCAA National Coach of the Year.

Sophomore Jessica Guild was named to the Region XIV All-Region Team and was First Team on both the NJCAA and Kodak All-American Teams. She and her twin sister, Nicole, were also named co-Most Valuable Players of the National Tournament.

Nicole also was named to the Region XIV All-Conference Team.

Other honors included Sholanda Pipken being named Freshman of the Year in Region XIV and being named to the Region XIV All Region Team, appointed to the All-Tournament Team at Nationals, and being named Second Team NJCAA All-American. Also, Aimee Michelson was named to the Region XIV All-Conference Team.

## Men's Basketball Team Finishes 21-11

Under first-year head coach Chris Crutchfield, the men's basketball team finished the year with a 21-11 record and fourth in the conference. Wagstaff Gymnasium served as the host of the Region XIV Men's Basketball Tournament, and the friendly confines helped the Apaches notch an 89-81 win over fourth-seed Jacksonville College in the first round. The Apaches, however, fell to the top seed and eventual tournament champion, San Jacinto Central in the semifinals. Sophomore Immanuel McElroy was honored for his individual play by being named to the Region XIV All-Tournament Team, First Team All Region XIV, as well as being named a NJCAA Second Team All-American.



Coach Riley poses with John Peterson, director of intercollegiate athletics, and a resolution from the TJC Board of Trustees recognizing the team's accomplishments.



## College Receives Good Report from SACS Accreditation Team

The College received its long-awaited site visit and subsequent preliminary report in April from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, a report with far fewer suggestions and recommendations for improvement than is typical.

President Dr. William R. Crowe characterized the suggestions and recommendations as minor adjustments that can be addressed immediately.

Dr. Robert McSpadden, team chairman and president of Gulf Coast Community College of Panama City, Florida, described TJC as "an excellent public junior college" with strong support from the community.

The team characterized the supporting documents prepared with the assistance of numerous faculty and staff over a two-year period as exemplary and found TJC's hospitality to be unmatched.

"It's an excellent report," McSpadden said.

In late April the TJC Board of Trustees acknowledged the work of the many faculty and staff members who played a role in the preparation of materials and the site visit by extending a resolution. Copies were provided to Self-Study Team members: David Bailey, Rebecca Bibby, Gene Branum, Betty Briggs, Beverly Bugay, Steve Burket, Charlotte Creason, Linda Cross, Ed Cunningham, Diane Davis, Amy Glenn, Steve Green, Judy Hammond, Sarah Harrison, M'Liss Hindman, Jeanne Ivy, Marian Jackson, Charles Johnson, Manoucher Khosrowshahi, David Ligon, Kenneth Luke, Larry Manning, Carol McGinty, Dee Miller, Richard Minter, David Murray, Ashton Oravetz, Betsy Ott, Katie Preast, Ellen Price, Cheryl Rogers, Chris Smith, Mary Tedford, Idalia Trent, Brian Turman, Stan Watson and Gerald Wilson.

The College will have five months to respond to recommendations in the report, once the final written document is received.



**ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS**—Workers finish installation of a thermal storage tank on the north end of campus, part of a \$6.9 million energy management plan approved by the Board of Trustees in October. The tank will be used to store cooled water, to be distributed along a campus-wide chilled loop system. The energy plan is projected to reduce energy costs from \$1.48 per square foot to an estimated \$1.06 per square foot.

## Board OKs New Work Force Programs

In February, the Board of Trustees gave the go-ahead to proposals for two new academic programs: pharmacy technology and geographic information systems technology.

Pharmacy technology is a one-year certificate program designed to provide academic and practicum experience in pharmacy practices.

The program is intended to meet the growing need for technicians prepared for the retail or hospital clinical pharmacy field, said Dr. Lou Kuck, dean of health and natural sciences.

Students will study in pharmacology, chemistry, anatomy and physiology and computer science. They'll also operate a mock dispensing clinic.

Graduates will be prepared to take a national certification exam. The program will be limited to 12 students initially.

Geographic information systems (GIS) technology is a work force training program designed to prepare students for careers in GIS-related careers. Students will complete 65 semester hours with 46 of those hours in the major technical and related areas of study. Students could transfer some hours to an upper-level institution to continue study toward a bachelor's degree in a similar program, but the program is not designed for transfer, said Richard Minter, dean of program development and institutional research.

Instead, graduates will be available for immediate employment in what the Texas State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee has identified as an evolving occupation. The nearest similar two-year program is more than 100 miles from Tyler.

The program will be limited to 16–18 students at its outset.



Richard Minter, dean of program development and institutional research, left, and Jack Mills coordinator, office of research services/GIS lab, The University of Texas at Tyler, right, with Tyler Mayor Kevin Eltife after the mayor proclaimed November 17, 1999 as "GIS Day." Minter and Mills participated in the event to help publicize the need for geographic information systems professionals with an associate or advanced degree.



## Phi Theta Kappa Chapter Earns 5-Star Status, Wins 2<sup>nd</sup> Straight Freeman Award

The College's Alpha Omicron chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society for Community Colleges, was recognized as a Five Star Chapter during the society's 82<sup>nd</sup> International Convention in Orlando, Florida, April 20–22.

The Alpha Omicron chapter was one of only three chapters in Texas to be recognized for its national ranking. Alpha Omicron was also recognized as one of the Top 25 Chapters nationally in both the Scholarship and Leadership Hallmarks.

Vice-President of Leadership Toni Bradley was one of 25 officers to receive a 1999–2000 Outstanding Chapter Officer medallion. Another sophomore, Alpha Omicron President Chris Drake, was selected to receive the Clifford D. Wood Memorial Scholarship, which he will use to continue his studies at Texas A&M University-Commerce.

Advisor Cathryn Cates was presented a 2000 Horizon Award.

In addition, the chapter's scrapbook was chosen to receive the Eichling Yearbook Award.

Alpha Omicron was the only chapter in the country to receive the prestigious Freeman Science Award and the first chapter ever to receive the award two years in succession.

The chapter was honored for having achieved its 1999 Journey Challenge and for being a Five-Star Chapter.

Alpha Omicron will serve as the 2000–01 State President for Phi Theta Kappa.

In March, 15 Alpha Omicron members attended the Phi Theta Kappa Regional Conference in Houston and returned with numerous honors.

The TJC chapter was awarded the Texas Regional Service Project Award for implementation of projects for Habitat for Humanity and Organ Donor Awareness and also received the Continued Excellence Award, the Congeniality Award, the Communications Award and awards for excellence in scholarship, fellowship and service.

Students were also recognized for their

scrapbook during the Texas Regional Convention, March 16–18.

Individual recognition went to Toni Bradley, vice president of leadership, who was inducted into the Texas Hall of Honor for Members, and to Matt Cates who will serve as Texas Regional President for 2000–01.

Advisor Judy Turman was awarded the Alumni Award of Merit and advisor Cathryn Cates received the Horizon Award that recognizes outstanding advisors.

"We have the largest chapter in the state and the sixth largest in the nation," said Cates. "Our students have worked really hard, and we are thrilled with their achievements."

The "5-Star Chapter" commendation recognizes the chapter's attainment of goals presented in the Society's Five-Star Chapter Development Program. The five star level standards emphasize increased international fellowship, participation and special service to the college.

The chapter's achievements were cited in the "2000 Awards Tabloid" which was distributed to representatives attending the international convention.

Established in 1918 by Missouri two-year college presidents, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society serves to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students. Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 1.3

million members and 1100 chapters located in the United States, U.S. territories, Canada, Germany, and Japan. The programs offered focus upon the Society's Hallmarks of Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Fellowship.

To be eligible for membership a student must complete a minimum of twelve hours of associate degree course work and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Students must maintain a high academic standing throughout their enrollment in the two-year college. The average age of a new member is 29, and ranges from 18 to 80. Part-time and full-time students are eligible for membership.



Back row: Annette Pittman, 1998–99 Chapter President; Gigi Beaton, advisor; Cathryn Cates, advisor; Sondra Hall, member; Elizabeth Shoemaker, historian; Joni Barrow, Vice-President of Scholarship; Katie Green, Vice-President of Fellowship; Toni Bradley, Vice-President of Leadership; Judy Turman, advisor; Jennifer Smith, alumna.

Front Row: Matt Cates, 2000–01 Texas Regional President; Chris Drake, 1999–2000 Chapter President; and Billy Bryant, member.

Not pictured but also attending the convention were John Peters, member; Jim Epperson, 1998–99 Vice-President of Scholarship, 1999 All-USA Academic First Team member, and 1999 Guistwhite Scholar, and Jo Epperson.



## Forensics Performers Claim High Marks

The TJC forensics team had a successful spring semester, competing in the Texas Junior College Speech and Theatre Association State Tournament in El Paso and placing in national competition in Portland, Oregon.

At the state tournament, in February, Melissa Lane won 2<sup>nd</sup> in impromptu speaking. She was also the 4<sup>th</sup> top speaker in parliamentary debate, and she placed 6<sup>th</sup> in extemporaneous speaking.

Amy Phillips won 3<sup>rd</sup> in impromptu speaking and in speech to entertain.

Beth Bolton placed 4<sup>th</sup> in extemporaneous speaking and 5<sup>th</sup> in impromptu speaking.

In Portland, Julie Vela, a Tyler sophomore, received a silver award for her dramatic interpretation of *Wit*, a play written by Margaret Edson.

Robin Cannon, a Longview freshman, received a bronze award for her prose interpretation of *My Father Dancing*, a short story by Bliss Broyard.

"I am really pleased these girls placed on the national level," M'Liss Hindman, speech/theatre instructor, said. "Competition at nationals becomes more difficult every year, and this year prose and dramatic interpretation were two of the largest events with more than 100 contestants in each competition."

The annual Phi Rho Pi National Forensic Tournament attracted participants from 75 colleges from across the nation who competed in a number of events.

The TJC team has regularly been ranked among the top five among college and university teams in the nation as determined by Pi Rho Phi, a national rules and regulating body for forensic competition.

## Faculty/Staff Briefs

Amy Glenn, instructor, government and economics, presented a paper entitled "Using the Web to Make Learning Relevant" to the Seventh Annual Distance Education Conference in January. The Conference is held annually by the Center for Distance Learning Research at Texas A&M University. Her paper has also been posted on the center's web site.

Glenn also presented a forum and heading a panel called "Doing It All ... At A Distance" at the Innovations 2000 Conference in February. This Conference is sponsored each year by Terry O'Banion's League for Innovation in the Community College.

Additionally, Glenn wrote a chapter for *Quality Instruction at a Distance: Strategies and Best Practices*, which was published by the Instructional Telecommunications Council in January. Her chapter deals with using technology to increase learner control, to increase active learning and application, and to enhance the diverse talents and learning styles of students.

Glenn will serve as Convention Director for the Southwestern Social Science Association. Founded in 1919, the SSSA is probably the oldest regional social science association in the United States. The organization is composed of professionals and students in the social sciences, including individuals in academia and those in practice fields. Current individual membership is about 1,200. The purpose of the Association is to promote, cultivate and correlate the various areas of the social sciences and their applications through the encouragement of research, program meetings, and the publication and dissemination of information and opinion. The Association consists of eight social science affiliates. Each affiliate has its own officers, executive committee, program chair, plenary speakers,

organization and business meetings. As Convention Director, Glenn is responsible for all local arrangements for the annual meetings of the Association, for distributing hotel reservation information to members, and for implementing the registration and preregistration systems for all meetings. Because registration will be coordinated through Tyler Junior College, the College becomes the home of the Association.

Ken Stegall, instructor, respiratory care, was recently recognized for 25 years of teaching in the program. Stegall has also seen three children complete training in respiratory care.

Dee Miller, instructor/director, vocational nursing, was recently selected to serve on a committee for the Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners. This committee will review for possible revision the Minimum Standards for Vocational Nurse Education in Texas.

Dr. Manoucher Khosrowshahi, instructor of government, was selected to be one The Texas Council for the Humanities speakers for the years 2000-2002. The council is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and is one of the most prestigious organizations to educate the public about humanities' issues. Khosrowshahi also was also recently selected by the National Security Educational Program to be a grant evaluator for the educational institutions nationwide. The NSEP is a part of the U.S. Defense Department.

Dr. Charles N. Johnson, instructor, English and director of Success-Oriented Studies, was a featured guest columnist in the April issue of *Did You Know*, a district-wide newsletter for the Palm Beach County, Florida school district. Johnson's submission, "Making Connections," dealt with students making career decisions, decisions that can be positively influenced by effective school-to-careers community programs.



## Meet John Stephenson

### *TJC Alumni Association President*

In 1963, when John Stephenson enrolled at Tyler Junior College, he was what we call a “non-traditional” college student. Once a high school dropout, he is now a successful pharmacist and owner of Stephenson Pharmacy. And, without hesitation, he will tell you that he owes his success to Tyler Junior College.

“I love to tell my story about TJC. I never dreamed I could make it in college. I was convinced that college was something beyond my reach. In high school they told us that if you weren’t in the upper half of your class, you couldn’t even get into college.

“No one ever cared if I studied and I liked to run around and play football—and I didn’t study!” stated John. In 1962, he married his high school sweetheart, Wayne Griffin, and at 22, he was “rough necking” in the oil fields when he made the decision to change his life.

“I remember the night. It dropped down into the single digits. I almost froze to death and I made up my mind that night I was going to try to go to college,” said John. “My father-in-law was a pharmacist and he was always dropping subtle hints and encouraging me.”

John remembers his first experiences at TJC. “Dr. Edwin Fowler let me enroll on probation if I would take English five times a week. Mrs. Mary Burton was one of my English teachers. I didn’t even know what a research paper was. She personally walked me over to the library and showed me how to use the card catalogue. I was very proud of the “A” minus I got on that paper. Another time, she invited the entire class over to her house for a spaghetti dinner.”

“I had never had any kind of chemistry. I spent more time in Mr. James Wicks’ office than I did in his classroom. Some things I just couldn’t understand and somehow he could always make it so I understood it,” said John. “When I transferred and took second-semester chemistry, my grades were so high I didn’t have to take the final. Mr. Wicks had already covered most of it in his first-semester class. Those are just the kind of teachers you have out there.”

“One of the great things about TJC is that it fills so many different roles. There are the non-traditional students like me, there are the students who went off to the big schools like A&M and UT Austin; and they did too much partying—TJC gives them another chance. Then there are the students who are not ready or can not afford to or just do not want to go off to college. And now we have all those valedictorians and Presidential Scholars! TJC is there for all of them.

“Another thing I am very excited about is the new pharmacy technology program that the TJC Board of



Trustees recently approved. By 2001, only pharmacists and certified techs will be able to prepare prescriptions and there will be a real demand for those technicians,” stated John. “This is just another example of how TJC serves the needs of our community and the East Texas area.”

John graduated from the University of Houston in 1968, returned to Tyler and began his career as a pharmacist. In 1980, he purchased Griffin-Hargrave Pharmacy and changed the name to Stephenson’s. His wife of 38 years, Wayne, still keeps the books—but now she does it from their home on Lake Tyler.

“I remember when the lake was built...I always wanted to live out there. I enjoy getting out on my jet ski, just visiting the neighbors, and if you want to have a party, all you have to do is just pick up the phone,” he said.

John has been active in the Alumni Association since the mid-eighties. “Because TJC did so much for me, this is just one of the ways I show my support. My goal this year is to help our alumni association grow and get more of our former students involved.”

“I know that if I had gone directly to a large university, I wouldn’t have made it,” said John. “I don’t know about other junior colleges, but I do know about Tyler Junior College. I am not a crusader, but when it comes to TJC, if there is something I can do, I am going to do it. TJC is the reason for my success.” ⌚



## Class Notes

### 1942

V.C. "Buck" Overall generously donated his 1941 and 1942 Apache Yearbooks to the TJC Alumni Association's collection.

Laurel (McCorkle) Williams thoughtfully sent us her 1941 and 1942 yearbooks for our collection.

### 1947

♣ Bill Hollowell is an attorney and a candidate for state representative.

At TJC, Bill was a member of Phi Theta Kappa. He has earned numerous degrees including: a J.D. in Law from Baylor and a L. L. N. degree in international law from the University of Texas at Austin. He and his wife, Mary Jane, live in Grand Saline.



### 1955

Charles D. Rorie, former TJC band member, has been appointed to the position of President of Kirtland Community College near Roscommon, Michigan, effective February 15, 2000.

### 1958

Charlene Davis Mizener retired last year from Hawkins Independent School District where she was the district librarian. Following her retirement, she married Jerry Mizener of Tyler. Charlene was an Apache Belle and editor of the yearbook while at TJC. She graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a teaching degree in home economics. She taught school in Odessa and Hawkins. Charlene has three children, Gary and twins Lori and Julie. Julie was also an Apache Belle. Charlene has seven grandchildren. She and Jerry live on the lake in Tyler.

### 1959

☆ Gary Raney played in the 1957 High School All-Star Game—north and played in the 1958 All Texas Junior College Squad. He transferred to UNT in January 1959 but was injured. Gary is retired from SWBTC and ATT after 31½ years. He now lives in Point, TX, and likes to fish, golf, and work with his cows.

♣ Betty Campbell Waters received her B.S.Ed. degree in 1961 from Stephen F. Austin State University. While at TJC, Betty was a cheerleader, member of the Future Teacher Association and choir. John, ('58), recently retired from NASA in Houston after 37 years. Last July they moved to Whitehouse. They have three children, Terry, Donna and Cindy. The children live in Houston and San Diego. The couple has five grandchildren.

☆ Ann Williams Casstevens is presently working part time in the Alumni office at TJC and teaching part time at The University of Texas at Tyler. Formerly a counselor in Hawkins Independent School District, Ann retired in 1995. She received her BS and M.Ed. degrees from Texas A&M University—Commerce. She has also done post graduate work at The University of Texas at Tyler and the St. Nicholas Training School, London. While at TJC, Ann was a member of the yearbook staff and Phi Theta Kappa. Her husband Kenneth is chairman of the Department of Communications at The University of Texas at Tyler. They have one daughter, Janna ('88) who lives in Dallas.

Louise Gray Womack and her husband Ray are living in Tyler. She is retired from teaching art at Hawkins Independent School District. While at TJC, Louise was an Apache Belle, on the yearbook staff and voted Most Beautiful. Louise received her BA degree from The University of North Texas and an

MA degree from Texas Woman's University. She taught at TJC before taking a position with Hawkins. She has four children, Greg, Jenny, Lee, and Anne and four grandchildren.

### 1966

☆ Edwina Powell Bulmann received her BA degree in history from The University of Texas at Austin in 1968 and a M.Ed degree in 1978 from The University of Texas at Tyler. She teaches Texas History at Holloway Middle School in Whitehouse. She has two daughters, Christina and Elizabeth.

☆ Gipsy Howard Schneider is a teacher at Hawkins Middle School in Hawkins. She and husband Robert have four daughters, Amy, Stacy, Deidre, and Erin. At TJC, Gipsy was a cheerleader, member of the Student Senate and Homecoming Court.

### 1967

Otto D. Hewitt, III owns his own law firm in Alvin, Texas. He received his bachelor's degree in history and political science from Baylor University in 1969. After military service and a law enforcement career out of state, he received his juris doctor degree from Baylor in 1980. He is a certified specialist, a member of *Who's Who in American Law* and has been nominated for a Presidential Citation. He has two daughters (Heather and Heidi) and was blessed with two grandchildren this summer (Alexis and Brice). His father (Otto D. Hewitt, Jr.) was a long-time member of the TJC Police Department and his mother (Dr. M.P. Hewitt) is a TJC instructor.

### 1968

Beverly A. Spencer is an attorney and counselor at law in Alief. She was a candidate for Houston City Council and is presently a municipal courts hearing officer, and assistant NAACP staff attorney.



## 1971

★ **Craig Dooley** is self-employed at Servistar in Conroe. He completed a BBA degree in finance in 1975 at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville. While at TJC, Craig was a cheerleader and president of the student senate. He and his family, wife Linda, and children Ryan, Erin, Megan, and Shannon live in Spring. Craig has been awarded Houston Entrepreneur of the Year finalist, Houston 100 Top Small Businesses, National Who's Who in Business, and INC Magazine INC 500 Top Small Businessmen in the U.S.

★ **Daniel Pennywell** is a mortgage banker/aerobic instructor. At TJC, he was a cheerleader and member of the student council. He received his bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Austin in 1973. In 1996, he was part of the closing ceremonies for the Australian delegation to the 1996 Summer Olympic games during the Handover Ceremony from Atlanta to Sydney. Presently he is body pump master trainer for Australian Body Works. Daniel serves as chairperson for the Workout for Hope, a nonprofit organization that benefits all types of cancer.

**Dennis Yoder** has been with Budget Rent A Car for seven years as a sales representative. He has been married 15 years to Carol, and he has two great step-sons Mike and Chris. Dennis has a B.A. degree in history from Sam Houston State University. While at TJC, he was an Apache Guard, a member of BSU, and in the choir. Dennis and Carol live in Dallas.

## 1972

★ **Pamela Hindman Daley** is an advertising executive for *Smart Set Magazine* in Houston. She graduated in 1977 from the University of Houston with a degree in communications. She and husband Jim have been

married 18 years. They have lived in Katy 6 years and before that lived in Jakarta, Indonesia and Singapore. The couple have a 13-year-old, J.R. Pamela does volunteer work for various charities in the Houston area. At TJC, she was a cheerleader, on the newspaper staff, and vice-president of the student body.

★ **Cynthia "Twig" Moore Hobby** is preschool director at J. Houston Elementary School in Austin. In 1994, Twig graduated with honors from Southwest Texas State University with a BS degree in family and consumer science/family and child development. At TJC, she was a cheerleader and a member of Sans Souci. Twig and husband Danny have two children Jason and Amanda.

★ **Michael "Lynn" Tiller** works in sports broadcasting for the Texas Sports Radio Network in Houston. He completed his degree in journalism from The University of Texas in 1974. Lynn and wife Carolyn have one son, Christopher. While at TJC, Lynn participated in baseball.

## 1973

**Vicki Murray Alfred** has a new home in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She works as advertising coordinator for the *Albuquerque Journal*. Vicki completed her degree in advertising in 1975 at Texas Tech University. Husband Mark is Director of Operations of RMC dba Long John Silvers. The couple have two children: Amy who attends the University of Arizona and Jenny who is at Texas Tech University on a soccer scholarship.

★ **Kathleen Osborn Duff** is a school counselor at Hubbard Middle School in Tyler. She and husband Lewis have two children, Austin and Lezley. Kathleen was a cheerleader at TJC and a member of the Campus Christian Center.

## 1974

**Marsha Marsh** has a new job at the Madisonville State Bank in Madisonville as a lobby teller and in the note department. She was a cheerleader at TJC.

★ **Teena Muessig Zihlman** is beginning her 24<sup>th</sup> year of teaching with Garland Independent School District. She is a Reading Recovery teacher. Her husband Andy is Dean of Students for Bishop Lynch High School and head girl's basketball coach. Daughter Coleen is a sophomore at Stephen F. Austin State University, and is a Chi Omega. The Zihlman's have two other children Caroline and Kurt. While at TJC, Teena was a cheerleader and member of Sans Souci. The family lives in Garland.

## 1975

★ **Rebecca Bibby** is an instructor at Tyler Junior College. She and her husband David live in Bullard with their two children, Judson and Lauren.

★ **Vicki Ray Roche** is back in Texas from Chicago. She and husband David live in Cedar Hill and have three boys, Lan, Seph, and Drew. Vicki is the senior manager for raw materials for Chaparral Steel. While at TJC, she was a cheerleader and went on to complete a degree in business from Southern Methodist University in 1978.

## 1976

★ **Ellen Vaeth** recently returned from California after 12 years away. She and husband John live in Austin. They have two daughters, Stacey and Carrie.

**Linda Arps Lewis**, is a fifth-grade teacher at Austin Elementary School in Tyler. She has won re-election as district seven director for the Texas Classroom Teachers Association.



## 1977

★ ★ **Randy Womble** is the owner of Gamco Supply and President of Rose Capital West Little League. He and his wife **Rhonda** ('78) have two boys. **Michael** ('99) is a sophomore at Texas A&M University majoring in business and **Blake** is a junior at Robert E. Lee High School where he excels at both academics and sports.

## 1979

★ **Beverly Bugay** added to our collection of yearbooks by donating a 1978 copy.

**Scott Finley** has recently taken a job with Satama of Finland. For the past five years, Scott has been with Primedia Workplace Learning in Dallas. Previously, Scott was an executive producer for KLTV in Tyler. He has written a play that will be presented by the Athens Civic Theater in September. Scott and his wife **Janna** ('88) live in Dallas.

## 1981

☆ **Bobby D. Bobbitt** is vice-president Western Region of Cooper – Crouse Hinds in Castle Rock, CO. He received degrees from Texas A&M University and The University of Houston. Bobby, wife **Rantha**, and son **Cameron** live in Colorado.

**Elizabeth "Beth" Gray Ivans** taught school for 10 years and was a school counselor for 3 years. She now is a stay-at-home wife and mother and "loving it." Beth and husband **Davin** live in Spurger with their two daughters **Molly** and **Maggie**. At TJC, she was a cheerleader and went on to attend Stephen F. Austin State University and Lamar University. She received a degree in biology in 1983.

## 1982

**Mary Burton** donated her 1963, 1965, and 1967 Apache yearbooks to the Alumni Association Collection.

☆ **Connie Downing Truxell** reports doing a lot of volunteering.

**Connie** and husband, **Ronald**, own their own business and live in Tyler. The couple has one daughter and two granddaughters.

## 1983

★ **Galen Morrison** dropped by the office and donated his 1981 Apache yearbook to our collection.

**Juanita Franklin Winkfield** lives in Arlington with husband **Larry**, her high school sweetheart. They have two children **Sheena** and **Kevin**. Juanita is currently with Allstate Insurance Company and is a licensed sales producer. While at TJC, she was a cheerleader.

## 1984

**Darren Chaney** is a systems administrator for Lake Ronel Oil Company. He and wife **Karen** have been married for 9 years and have two children **Coleman** and **Morgan**. The family lives in Tyler.

**Deidre McQueen Haines** was recently chosen the Teacher of the Year at Mayde Creek Elementary in Katy Independent School District. She has been an elementary teacher for the past 10 years. She is a life member and committeeman of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and is a vice-president of the Katy A&M Club. She and her husband **Gordon** live in Katy.

## 1986

**Tammy Ford** recently began teaching at the vocational nursing education program on the Jacksonville campus.

☆ **Treva Gentry Tew** relocated to California in December when she began work as senior accountant at Travis Credit Union in February. She married **Ray Tew** on March 24.

## 1987

☆ **Kimberly Vandiver Gahagan** just moved to the Nashville, Tennessee area. She was a cheerleader at

TJC. **Kimberly** received a BBA degree from The University of North Texas in management and an MBA degree in human resources. She and her husband **Billy** have two children **Brandon** and **Courtney**.

**Mike Jistel** is a 1990 graduate of The University of North Texas. He is a corporate assets manager for Oakwood Acceptance Corporation in Austin. He and his wife **Sabra** and sons, **Austin** and **Hunter**, live in Manchaca. While at TJC, Mike was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

## 1988

☆ **Sherri Davidson Wilson** is a full time mom of three wonderful boys, **Collin**, **Tanner** and **Lexton**. She is also the corporate secretary for Terry Davidson Construction Company. The family moved to Forney a year and a half ago and are in the process of selling and returning to the Tyler area. Sherri was a cheerleader at TJC.

## 1989

☆ **John Donaghey** lives in Allen and works for Texas Instruments in semiconductor sales. He was a cheerleader at TJC and a member of the tennis and soccer teams. He completed his MBA degree at Southern Methodist University. John and wife **Shannon** have an infant son **Clay**. The family moved into a new home in Allen in August 1998.

**Mark Hale** and wife **Mendy** live in Arlington. He is Assistant Vice-President for Student Affairs at Dallas Baptist University. Mark graduated in 1992 with a BAA degree in applied arts and science from The University of North Texas.

☆ **Sharon Emmert McGinnis** is a certified legal assistant currently serving as a Smith County commissioner. She and husband **David** have two children **Keith** and **Natalie**. Both children are alums of TJC.



**Shelly and Geoff Roark** are the proud parents of a new baby girl, Rachel Kathleen. She was born April 18 at ETMC in Tyler.

## 1990

☆ **Steven Wayne Standefer** is a healthcare consultant with John March Partners, Inc. in Tyler. Steven's wife, **Teri**, ('92), is also an alum. While at TJC, Steven was a cheerleader. He continued his studies at Stephen F. Austin State University earning a BS degree in kinesiology and business administration.

## 1991

✦ **Tracey Ripley Adkinson** and **Kelly W. Adkinson** ('92) have relocated to upstate New York with Target Stores, Inc. where Tracey is a senior manager for their newest distribution center. Kelly plans to continue his education in biology at the University of New York in Albany. Tracey was a Presidential Scholar and an Apache Belle, receiving her bachelor's degree in marketing and

management from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches in 1993.

**Kenni Dyes Fritcher** is a full time student and nanny. She attends The University of North Texas majoring in sociology. She married her husband Brad in 1998, a flight attendant for Southwest Airlines for 3 years but quit to finish his degree. The couple built a home in Lewisville in 1997. Her goal is to be a counselor and mom.

## 1993

**Stacey Brookshire** received an AA degree in interdisciplinary studies at TJC. She completed her education at Stephen F. Austin State University graduating in 1995 with a BA degree in marketing. She moved to Austin in 1995 to work with American Paging. In 1997 she went to work for Sprint PCS and is now assistant



manager. She plans to marry Jeffrey H. Andrewartha in August. The couple will reside in Pflugerville.

**Mollye King Glasscock** and her husband, Timothy, just completed their 5-year enlistment in the US Navy hospital corps. They are now living in Arlington where Mollye is a student at The University of Texas at Arlington and works as a typesetter. At TJC, she was a cheerleader and a representative in the Student Senate.

**Brandy Wilder Niemuth** is a third grade teacher at James F. Kelaney Primary in Kennedale. She and husband, Rodney, married in 1999. Rodney works at a radio station "The

Ticket" in Dallas as the event coordinator. The couple bought a new home in February in Arlington. Brandy was a cheerleader at TJC.

✦ **Julie Pelton Schuricht** graduated from Texas A&M University in 1996 with a B.S. degree in community health. She married Hans in June of 1998. He is a fourth year medical student at The University of Texas Houston Medical School. She is employed by the Texas Heart Institute as a health educator for the Heart Information Service. Julie will graduate in May with a master's degree in public health. She was a cheerleader at TJC.

**Stephanie Tedford** recently received her master's degree in computer cognitive systems and is now working on her Ph.D. in applied technology training development. She is a former cheerleader at TJC.

## 1994

**Gloria Oliver-Wesley** is a safety engineer in Tyler. She received her MS degree from The University of Texas at Tyler.

## 1995

**Micha Warren Clark** received her master's degree in communication disorders from The University of Texas at Dallas. She is working as a speech-language pathologist for Irving Independent School District. In June she married Timothy James Clark. The couple lives in Las Colinas.

## 1997

**Sharniqua Nikki Glaspie** is living in Mesquite and will be graduating from The University of North Texas in December 2000 with a degree in criminal justice. She was a cheerleader at TJC.

☆ **Jennifer Patterson** graduated this spring from East Texas Baptist University. She was a TJC cheerleader mascot from 1980-85. While at TJC, Jennifer was a member of Harmony and Understanding.

## Missing Yearbooks

The Alumni Association is trying to establish our own library of Apache Yearbooks. We need the following editions:

- 1926 and 1927
- 1933 through 1940
- 1943 through 1946
- 1949
- 1955, 1956, 1958
- 1964, 1973, 1976
- 1980 and 1982

If you would like to donate your yearbook, please contact Betty Briggs, 903-510-2371, 1-800-687-5680 or mail to:

Alumni Relations  
P.O. Box 9020  
Tyler, Texas 75711



## 1998

☆ **Zakiya Aisha Foreman** is currently attending Prairie View A&M University.

☆ **Charlene Carson Leavings** is majoring in criminal justice at The University of Texas at Tyler. While at TJC, she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the National Dean's List. Charlene and husband Clint have three children Chasity, Heather, and Braxton.

## 1999

☆ **Rickey Anthony** is working for A&M Make Ready Company in Henderson. He has two children Alize and Alerick.

☆ **Margaret Harris Arnold** writes that her experience and college training paid off. She was promoted from support staff to administrative assistant for the Vice President of Administration at Cunningham Lindsey. Margaret and husband Wayne have two children Ronnie and Cody.

☆ **Mandi Baldrige** is working with Prestige Portraits and working on a



degree from Southwest Texas State University majoring in communication disorders. At TJC she

was a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

☆ **Ryan Lee Boon** is attending Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. He has a double major in marketing and voice performance (music). While attending TJC, Ryan was a member of Harmony and Understanding and the Chamber Singers.

☆ **David Ray Byrd** is a dental hygienist in Nacogdoches and is attending Stephen F. Austin State University. David and wife, Terri, have two children Michael and Nathan.

☆ **Diann Cummings** has a new job in the Department of Radiology at East Texas Medical Center in Tyler. She has one son, Jerad.

☆ **John Davis** is working at Trinity Mother Frances Hospital in trauma radiology.

☆ **Tiffani Dozier** is an intern for the press secretary of the Texas Democratic Party. She is majoring in public relations at UT Austin. At TJC, Tiffani was a feature twirler with the TJC Band.

☆ **Shatori Foreman** was promoted from data entry operator to electronic source control file processor at East Texas Medical Center, Tyler.

☆ **Melisia Coffman Foster** is attending The University of Texas at Tyler majoring in elementary education. At TJC she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

☆ **Mitzi Gandy** is attending Stephen F. Austin State University and pursuing a bachelor's degree in agriculture education.

☆ **Nicholas Garzolini** is attending The University of Texas at Tyler.

☆ **Regina Hargrove** is a radiology technician at the Tyler Cancer Center. At TJC, she was a member of the Apache Belles and Sans Souci. Her husband, George, attends TJC. The couple lives in Lindale with their daughter Hannah.

☆ **Jeremy Hubbard** is attending Stephen F. Austin State University and working at Szechuan's Chinese Restaurant as he works toward a degree in finance.

☆ **Michael McCraw** attends The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. He and his wife Darlene have three children Autumn, Cody and Mike. The family lives in Whitehouse.

☆ **Andrew McFarlane** is attending the University of North Texas in Denton studying criminal justice.

☆ **Amanda McKenzie** is a nurse in labor and delivery at Trinity Mother Frances hospital.

☆ **Jayna Morrow** recently started a new job at Body Concepts.

☆ **Jon Pugh, Jr.** is employed by East Texas Medical Center Tyler

hospital and is a certified respiratory therapist.

☆ **Kimberly Rudisel** is majoring in criminal justice at The University of Texas at Tyler.

☆ **Melissa Schaefer** began taking courses in speech language pathology at Texas Woman's University in Denton.

☆ **Christopher Wells** attends Stephen F. Austin State University majoring in business.

☆ **Kacy Withrow** is attending The University of Texas at Tyler and pursuing a degree in interdisciplinary studies.

☆ **Kenia Zelaya** attends the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. She was accepted in the magnetic resonance imaging program. While at TJC, Kenia was a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

## Marriages

### 1978

Lynn Marsh and James Michael Harty, Tyler

### 1980

Susan Hamilton and Terry Reid, Sam Rayburn, Texas

### 1981

Keely Nicole Lawson and Ira Stuart Murray, Dallas

April Delane Lyles and Gregg Shelton Hale, Hot Springs, Arkansas

### 1982

Lisa Staples Nulf and William H. Phillips, Tyler

### 1983

Jana Gail Russell and David Lee Mims, Tyler

### 1986

Lori Jo Keeling and David Arnold Wharton ('90), Whitehouse

### 1987

Cassandra Yvonne Johnson and Raymond Tracy Mosley, Tyler



## 1988

Holly Ann Barry and Christopher Charles Clement, Tyler  
 Holli Malone Smith and Michael Cunningham, Tyler  
 Camellia Rashelle McKnight and Larry B. George ('91), Tyler

## 1989

Amy Lynn Umphries and Jim Draper, Chandler

## 1990

Michelle Bain and Brian Davis, Tyler  
 Cynthia Louann Rogers and Christopher Brian Scott, Tyler  
 Dena Taylor and Mark Borah, Tyler

## 1991

Susanne Hamilton and Terry Reid, Sam Rayburn  
 Tamekia Crosby and Steven B. Neal, Tyler  
 Alesia DeShawn Taylor and Anthony Racir Tate, Chandler  
 Jennifer Suzanne Allen and Jeremy Lee Taylor, Tyler

## 1992

Nicole Jesse Stevens and Ryan Alan Bishop, Toledo, Ohio  
 Cindy Turbeville and Brent Roycroft, Nashville, Tennessee  
 Jessica Ruth Smith and Daniel Parker Snow, Tyler  
 Courtney Whitaker and Jeffrey Crawford, Tyler

## 1993

LaCammie Nornette Mills and Bryan Keith Oliver, Tyler  
 Tanya Larissa Jordan and Nicholas Roshon Elmore, Tyler  
 Jennifer Reid and Shawn Long, Tyler  
 Terry Leann Miller and Fredrick Anthony Ufolla, Tyler  
 Dara Cook and Brian Lindly, Tyler  
 Billie Denise Jeschke and Bryan Christopher Turk, Ben Wheeler  
 Kimberly Sue Phillips and Chad William Smotherman, Whitehouse  
 Dannette Marie Law and Robert E. Butler, Tyler

Shelley Renea Moore and Bruce Robert Hill, Tyler  
 Kimberly Ann Hornsby and Todd Otto Byrne, Tyler  
 Tuwanda Reshella Hood and Carl Kharzan Jones, Tyler  
 Kelli Emeline Megason and Jason Ray Ivy, Lindale.  
 Stephanie Storey and Cory Lewellen, Van

## 1994

Kari Lynne Williams and Kevin Wade Dickerson, Whitehouse  
 Lara Stallings and William Routon, II, Tyler  
 Ann Catherine Bergman and Jamie Todd Lent, Tyler  
 Kristle Trenece Adams and Robert Otto Mewes, III, Tyler  
 Laura Duke and Matthew Fate ('93), Tyler  
 Leah Sanders and Adam Brown, Tyler  
 Misty Anise Bateman and Brian Ray Neel ('88), Arp  
 Deborah Kay Metcalf and Christopher Jon Perez ('97), Tyler

## 1995

Kimberly Sue Phillips and Chad William Smotherman, Whitehouse  
 Melissa Nicole Wroten and Derek Keith Dyess, ('94) Tyler  
 April Delane Lyles and Gregg Shelton Hale, Hot Springs, Arkansas  
 Kellie Rene Ford and Todd Alan Rachell, Tyler  
 Ruby Ann Wintters and Michael Paul Harrison, Lindale  
 Venora LaShandra Campbell and Kenneth Edward Curd, Tyler

## 1996

Mary Sosa and Charles Nathan Shirley, Lindale  
 Angela Leigh Beard and Craig Allen Friberg, Frankston  
 KaTina LaChelle King and Burnest LaQuinsis Young, Tyler  
 Stefani Jo Holbrook and Jonathan Tomlin Fleming, Lindale

Erica Jenise Miller and Aaron Frank Wallace, Tyler  
 Amber McGuire and Jeremy Segroves, Tyler  
 Stephanie Jo Holbrook and Jonathan Tomlin Fleming, Lindale  
 Stacy J. Smith and Kevin L. Jakubik, Troup  
 Holly Michelle Gillig and Samuel Lee Brown, Tyler  
 Larra Lynn Dunklin and Adam Wade Selman, Brushy Creek  
 Heidi Scott and Anthony Kight, Tyler  
 Kaylyn Hall and Jason Baker, Seagoville

## 1997

Rebekah Jean Allison and Mitchell Shayne Rogers, Katy  
 Amy Machel Smith and Alan Wilson Etheredge, Tyler  
 LaTonia Raibon and Gregory Cooper, Tyler  
 Theresa Lanell Porter and Michael B. Scott ('99), Ben Wheeler  
 Marsha Ann Crawford and Danny Castillo, Chandler  
 LaNita Rena Cantley and Marcus Welby Sherpell, Bullard  
 Tamara Michelle Williams and Michael Wayne Jones, Tyler  
 Shannon Kisamore and John Whitsell ('93), Troup  
 Heather Jean Heublein and Joshua M. Rucker, Tyler  
 Cheryl Frances Kaufman and Benjamin Wayne Cook, Jefferson  
 Joy Greer and Bob Green, Tyler

## 1998

Ashley Nicole Sloan and Dustin Joe Nichols, Arp  
 Angie Ramirez and Jeremy Scott Downey, Bullard  
 Amy Leigh Bush and Mark Bradley McCallum, Bullard  
 Melissa Gillispie and Mitchel Price, Jr., Hawkins  
 ☆ Rusty Lynn Stark and Jonathan David Snider, Tyler



Krista Offutt and Christopher Hearon, Tyler  
 Lori Dawn Bailey and Michael Keith Drewry ('97), Tyler  
 Willietta Pinkerton and Charles LeMans, Tyler

## 1999

Melinda Reshun Baxter and LaDoughyous Santez McCalla  
 Stefanie Jo Holbrook and Jonathan Tomlin Flemming, Lindale  
 Erica Jenise Miller and Aaron Frank Wallace, Tyler  
 Emily Renee Reed and Jon Randolph Brandt, Jr., Tyler  
 Denise Kay Benningfield and James Mark Crelia, Lindale  
 Cora Billington and Michael Warren, Winona  
 ☆ Cynthia Marrie Saenz and Bradley Jonathan Lyle, Tyler  
 ☆ Alisha Michell Kirksey and Michael Chad Stainback, Whitehouse  
 Teresa Ann Leupen and Todd Truitt Williams, Tyler  
 Michele Marie Crowley and Jon Jeremy McLeroy, Tyler  
 Christina Marie Lloyd and Anthony Garrett Speights, Mineola  
 Amy Michelle Simmons and Daniel Jason Cooper ('78), Tyler  
 ☆ Latricia Gale Bunch and Jeremy Daniel Stroud ('95), Tyler  
 Cheryl Perry and Scott Jenkins, Tyler  
 Kristina H. Cain and Jerry D. Allred, Arp  
 Melissa Gillispie and Mitchel Price, Jr., Hawkins  
 Amanda Elizabeth Massey and Jon Scott Moyer, Whitehouse  
 Karee Perdue and Darren Parker, Murchison  
 Tara D'Wan Dark and David Mauldin Haney, II, Tyler  
 Melinda Reshun Baxter and LaDoughyous Santez McCalla, Tyler  
 Angela Kay Williams and Daniel Trey Bryant, Tyler  
 Mandy Callihan and Teddy Blodgett ('91)

## 2000

Tracy Jo Lee and David Booth, Rusk  
 Amanda Dru Dintelman and Scott Alan Lay, Lindale  
 Audrey Sherelle Baxter and Billy G. Vanzandt, Troup  
 Leslie Elizabeth Welch and Shelby Kevin Shanholtz, Tyler  
 Michelle Pattillo and Randall Jackson, Tyler  
 Cindy Campbell Browitt and David Edinger, Tyler  
 Kasey Jill Stephens and John Clark Oliver, Brownsboro  
 Crystal Maynard and Chance Cansler, Tyler  
 Candice Rae Owens and Daren Keith Welmaker, Tyler  
 Charla Elizabeth Carver and Jeffrey Lewis Carroll, Chandler  
 Marie Parker and Just Allen, Brownsboro  
 Leslie Rhea Lee and Andrew Wayne Kittrell, Tyler

## Memorials

### 1947

Charles Browning, Sr., October 5, 1999, Houston

### 1967

Alice Baxter, January 17, 1999, Tyler

### 1970

Gaynell Butler Taylor, December 16, 1999, Van

### 1972

Cynthia "Cyndy" Lee Swain Young, January 8, 2000, Tyler

### 1978

Marguerite Avant, September 25, 1999, Tulsa, OK  
 Glenn Raibon, October 5, 1999, Flint

## 1985

Warren Ray Richardson, Mukilteo, WA

## 1999

John Harlin Miller, December 3, 1999, Tyler

## Friends of the College

Ned Price, Sr., August 7, 1999  
 Henry Bell, Jr., August 24, 1999, Tyler  
 Virginia Ruth Turk, September 30, 1999, Tyler  
 Verna T. Carlton, November 17, 1999, Tyler  
 Judge Glenn S. Phillips, November 24, 1999, Tyler  
 William Henry Marsh II, December 5, 1999, Tyler  
 Monte Woodell, December 7, 1999, Tulsa, OK  
 William "Bill" Leo Jeffus, December 10, 1999, Tyler  
 Jerry E. Leatherwood, December 10, 1999, Tyler  
 Michael W. McClung, January 21, 2000, Dallas  
 Morris Sheppard Burton, January 24, 2000, Tyler  
 Willie Sirman, April 29, 2000, Tyler

## TJC Family Memorials

Bridget C. Mann, December 5, 1999, Tyler  
 Billy Jack Doggett, ('55), January 7, 2000, Tyler  
 Sara Bess Faulk, January 12, 2000, Tyler  
 Floyd Wagstaff, February 5, 2000, Tyler  
 Byron Tunnell, March 7, 2000, Tyler  
 J.D. Menasco, March 7, 2000, Kemp  
 Bernice Caudle Stewart, February 14, 2000, Tyler



# BACK PAGE

by Pat Logan

## AN OPEN LETTER TO MA BELL

Ma, where are you when we need you?

Forgive us for cutting you up in little pieces. In praising Romeo, Juliet suggested cutting him up. "When he should die, take him and cut him out in little stars/And he will make the face of heaven so fine/That all the world will be in love with night."

But your offspring, Ma, have been anything but stars. They've acted like brats, squabbling brats, with nobody to discipline them.

I hate to have to report this to you, but things have not been sweetness and light since we partitioned you over a decade ago and gave you those children.

Nothing is personal anymore, Ma. Of course we can't blame all that on you. We used to feel so good picturing the telephone operator in our minds: she would look somewhat like Lily Tomlin on *Laugh-In* asking, "Have I reached the party to whom I am connected?" I remember when the telephone numbers were as short of "421" and we'd never heard of area codes.

Actually, strange things used to happen even back when you were still in control. In South Texas we had a telephone company that shall remain nameless. While living in a little town, my husband and I applied for a phone in our house and were told via a post card that it would be six (6) months before we could have an instrument installed.

A few years later in another little town, Premont by name, we were being served (?) by the same company.

I answered the phone one day to hear a male voice telling me he was calling such and such number. I said, "This IS such and such." He said, "Is this Premont?" I answered in the affirmative. He conferred with some voice I could not hear well and then burst out with, "H---, Operator, you've given me Premont, Kentucky!"

Another occurrence with this particular company was downright eerie. Sun Oil had moved all their camp houses and no longer had a camp. Yet for months when you dialed the number of a former house it kept ringing and ringing.

But your kids, Ma, have created more problems than you can imagine. Some of the most frustrating times of my life have been trying to make long distance calls when not at home and unable to dial "1." Like a motel or a hospital. Frequently I have just given up and decided there ain't no way to get there from here.

The trouble with your quarreling kids is that the customer gets caught in the middle. Somehow I was receiving a bill from each of two companies, one for long distance and one for local. So I changed A to B solely in order to consolidate. A starts a campaign of calling to ask why in the world did I do this? Was I pressured? Was I slammed?

There is the story of the man who was so angry by the time he got an operator, he shouted, "Am I crazy or are you?" She replied in her sweetest institutional voice, "I'm sorry, sir, we do not have that information."

I needed help with my e-mail machine. I called the number given me for such a situation. I was passed from person to person five times and went through five different menus, holding for endless minutes. (As Dave Barry says, "I am not making this up.")

When I FINALLY got a living human being, he was Chinese. He was as helpful as a decided accent would allow him to be. I needed to have him repeat often. I explained my problem. He said, "Ar right, I am rooking for a sorushun." A long silence followed, broken now and then by an audible sigh. At intervals, he would say, "I am rooking for a sorushun." Then I began to sigh. He did his best to assist, but alas, no sorushun.

I have a friend who lived in England for 15 years. He should have been prepared for questionable service as he has also lived in Premont using the same company I mentioned. Once when I was in England, he tried to call me at my hotel. When he at long last got me, he was indeed exasperated and cried, "There ought to be a better way."

Ma, we miss you. Can you suggest a better way? ☱



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Mr. and Mrs. Galen F. Morrison  
Mrs. Andrea K. Ortega  
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*November 1999–March 2000*

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